

J. Harvey Rodgers Monthly Board Report

Please reference the following social media sites for ongoing information about J. Harvey Rodgers School.

Instagram: glassborojhroders

Twitter: @DanielleSochor

Facebook: JHRodgersglassboro

Educational Happenings & Community Involvement Activities:

We are looking forward to exploring trauma-based relationships, mindfulness & SEL (social-emotional learning) with the staff this year!

Administration:

Staff Evaluations

Tenured Certified Staff	0
Non-Tenured Certified Staff	0
Non-Certified Staff	0

Meeting Dates:

April 7, 2020 Kindergarten PLC

April 9, 2020 Preschool PLC

April 21, 2020 Kindergarten PLC

April 23, 2020 Preschool PLC

April 30, 2020 Faculty Meeting

Dates to Remember:

May 4, 2020-May 8, 2020 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 8, 2020 Virtual Field Day

May 8, 2020 Spring Virtual Concert

Dear Parents,

Thank you for the photos, appreciation, and the helpful feedback you gave us over the past couple weeks. Your positive responses are affirming the truly amazing work our J. Harvey Rodgers faculty is doing to translate their teaching expertise into effective distance learning. We appreciate you as well for doing your best to carve out a comfortable learning area and dedicated time in your work and home life to support your children's learning.

We are working to get it right — the workload, an appropriate amount of synchronous versus asynchronous time with students, the expectations for learning, and a balance of work time, down time, play time, and family time. To that end, and for consistency across schools and grade levels, we are asking teachers to consider a few **key principles** as they plan their online lessons, keeping in mind that their professional judgment and their knowledge of their students should drive their decisions.

Teachers will:

- **Focus on core skills, not simply content coverage.** This means that we are attempting to move students along with curriculum goals, we know that nothing fully replaces what is done in the classroom. Lessons will be pared down, along with time and product expectations for students.
 - **Present lessons in a way that allows students access throughout the day.** For families, this means students can watch videoed lessons or complete assignments when it is most convenient for them and their parents. Remote learning may be more effective when students participate live with their teacher, but we know it may not be possible for every student to tune in on any given day or time. Do what works best for your family.
 - **Provide clear directions.** This is something we are learning day by day as we receive feedback from parents. If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher and they can schedule a phone conference.
 - **Assign "classwork" only, with no additional traditional "homework".** We know students take varying amounts of time to complete assignments, be it in class or at home. Teachers will adjust the quantity and type of work they are assigning as they assess student work and progress. Flexibility along with compassion for everyone's life situation is key for us. While we do need your help to provide encouragement and an environment conducive to learning in your home, we do not expect you to teach the course or curriculum.
 - **Participates in live chats or recorded lessons when appropriate.** If students are unable to attend the live session, they can watch the video when it is more convenient for the family. At times, a teacher may want to also meet with small groups of students. In that case, if possible, it would be helpful if you can arrange for your child to have a computer device available to them at the scheduled time.
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- **Teach and communicate with compassion and flexibility.** This is perhaps most important as we know significant physical, emotional, and financial strain are new realities for our families.

As of Monday, April 6, 2020 we will be following a new schedule to supplement the learning packets. Please see the attached schedule below that references the content area subjects that will be taught throughout the week. This will be recorded so feel free to access the lesson when is convenient for your family. Virtual hours will also be provided two hours per week. Your teacher will email you specific days/times for virtual hours.

We are so appreciative of our teachers for creating positive blending learning environment with instruction and guidance that is appropriate for our students. With that, we are especially grateful to parents. We know that balancing work, family, and school isn't easy for anyone. Please give hugs and kisses to our children. We miss them so much and can't wait to see them soon! Stay Healthy! We are Bulldog Strong!

With love,

Danielle Sochor

Dear JHR Families,

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy, and trying to maintain some sense of normalcy during these trying times!

I am reaching out to let you know that next week May 4, 2020 to May 8, 2020 is **National Teacher Appreciation Week**. Many of you have reached out to me about how much you appreciate the tremendous job our teachers are doing during remote instruction. Since we will not be able to celebrate our teachers the way we have done in the past, I have a simple request. If you have the time, would you please have your child make a sign expressing thanks to their teachers that they can hold up during online instruction at some point next week?

We have a dedicated staff here who are working extremely hard to do whatever they can to keep our students on track and help them learn and succeed. Our teachers do not know about this request, so it will certainly come as a surprise to them. I know they would love this simple expression of appreciation, and it will touch their hearts more than you could imagine.

Thanking you in advance and again, please continue to stay safe and healthy!

Danielle Sochor
