

Glassboro Public Schools

560 Joseph Bowe Boulevard
Glassboro, New Jersey 08028

www.gpsd.us

Phone: 856-652-2700
Fax: 856-881-0884

Danielle Sochor
Director of Curriculum & Instruction



Jennifer Johnson
Business Administrator

Mark J. Silverstein, MBA, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Glassboro School District would like to thank you again for your continued support while we navigate the challenges brought on by the Coronavirus issue. On Monday, March 16, 2020 we will start the first phase of having an outside company come in to clean and sanitize our schools. Following our own intensive cleaning, this company will apply a fine mist of disinfectant, treating objects from ceiling to floor utilizing an electrostatic sprayer application. The electrostatic activity allows the disinfectant to cover all surfaces, including those that are easily missed or unreachable by hand. Please be advised this disinfecting treatment is non-carcinogenic and safe for humans, fabrics, and all surfaces.

Our school district's custodians will continue to be diligent and utilize strong practices for preventing the spread of viruses. Strategies that have proven useful during past virus outbreaks remain in-place. These include the frequent disinfection of surfaces such as desktops, tabletops, doorknobs, light switches, locker handles, faucet handles, etc. An aggressive approach to surface disinfection will continue.

We look forward to continuing to work together to meet the instructional goals set forth for our students. Remember to act with precaution and be careful with your own health. Together, we will continue to communicate, collaborate, and commit to the well-being of our families during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Silverstein".

Dr. Mark Silverstein
Superintendent

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Glassboro Public School District is committed to ensuring the health and safety of students and staff in our buildings. The district is actively monitoring updates and recommendations provided by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and is prepared to implement any requirements from these organizations. We feel that following these precautionary measures will help keep our school community healthy.

Presently, the NJDOH is recommending that school districts reinforce standard procedures for preventing seasonal respiratory illness/infections and specifically recommends the following steps:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve, not your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash hands often for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing; or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, if soap and water are not available.
- Stay home when you are sick and avoid people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Additional important preventative and protectant measures include:

- Adhere to exclusion recommendations from public health. For acute respiratory illnesses: Do not return to school until fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication.
- Attempt to separate sick students and staff until they can go home.
- Increased cleaning and disinfection procedures throughout the district including "high-touch" surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, faucets, tables, desks, and hands-on-learning items.

How can you help prevent the spread of respiratory illness?

- Please have a plan in place to promptly pick up sick children when called by the school nurse.
- Please be sure the school has current contact information where you can be reached promptly.
- Please keep your child home from school until symptom-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication, such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen.
- Understand that it may be necessary for your child to wear a small face shield or mask to contain any excessive coughing, in order to minimize spread of germs/viruses to others, while waiting to be picked up from school.

Preventative actions already in place in Glassboro Public Schools include:

- Students with complaints of illness are promptly evaluated by school nurse. When possible concern for communicable disease presents, parents/guardians are contacted and directed to pick up their child as soon as possible.

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- Review of Public Health Recommendations for when a child is picked up from school due to fever, excess, coughing, vomiting or other possible communicable diseases. Parents/Guardians are directed that child must remain home until symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of medication, such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Stomach Medications, etc. Children who are sent to school prematurely, may once again be sent home.
- At this time, school nurses have been given the authority to excuse absences for children who have presented with flu-like illnesses, as along as regular communication with the school nurse takes place.
- Instructing staff and students to remain home when sick.
- Face masks will be provided to any child who presents in the nurse's office with excessive coughing. This will be worn until child picked up from school nurse office, in order to minimize spread of airborne germs/viruses to other students and staff.
- Staff who present with excessive coughing and flu-like symptoms will be given a mask and directed to go home.
- Intensified daily cleaning and disinfecting of schools, paying special attention to frequently touched surfaces and objects, as part of ongoing custodial services in the school, following recommendations from local, state, and federal entities regarding the Coronavirus.
- Supplemental daily bus cleaning with more extensive, weekly disinfecting.
- Ongoing monitoring of NJDOH and CDC information and complying with all requirements:

We are most grateful for your understanding and assistance in these matters. The health of our students and staff is important to us.

We will continue to work with the state and national health organizations to monitor and follow their recommendations. We will provide you with further updates as they become available. For information on the Coronavirus, please visit the following websites below.

NJ Department of Health:

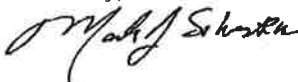
<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/2019nCoV_k12schools.pdf

Center for Disease Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Recent national and international concerns regarding the coronavirus have raised angst and worry. Our school district is taking proactive steps to plan for a variety of scenarios.

On March 5, 2020 we received guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education that paves the way for the utilization of virtual instruction should a school closure be deemed necessary by department of health and school officials. All Superintendents in Gloucester County and all Gloucester County Health Officials gathered to discuss emergency preparedness plans and to ensure a common understanding of the current New Jersey Department of Health and New Jersey Department of Education guidance.

Over the past week, district administrators have gathered to map out strategies for virtual instruction or remote learning experiences for our students should we experience a school closure. It is important to note that these are preemptive steps for a constantly evolving situation.

The district will continue to monitor and follow the guidance that is provided to us by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey Department of Health, and our local health departments. Information and updates provided by these health organizations can be found on the district website.

Let us pledge to proceed with caution and reason, to exercise proper hygiene, to follow the guidance of our public health officials, to stay home when ill, and to uphold our deep held community values, which are grounded in the rich, vibrant, and beautiful cultural diversity of our school community.

In the event a home program is needed, please provide an email address if you have access to the internet at home and kindly return to your homeroom teacher.

Sincerely,

Danielle Sochor

Child's Name: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Email Address: _____

I do not have access to the internet: _____
(Indicate with a X on the line)

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March 10, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As national and local reporting on Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues, it is natural for us to begin to question the "what ifs" involving our family members and our daily routines. I want to keep you abreast of our planning as we move forward.

In response to COVID-19 concerns, we continue to work with the local, state and national health organizations and follow their recommendations. Please be aware that we are adhering to our normal school operating procedures, daily schedules, scheduled events, and any planned social gatherings until notified to do otherwise.

However, we continue to follow and reinforce heightened disinfecting procedures in all our facilities, classrooms and buses. In addition, our school nursing staff continues to closely monitor attendance and student and staff health.

Remember, the NJDOH continues to advise us that the best ways to prevent the spread of respiratory infections or viruses are to:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve, not your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash hands often for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Recently, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has informed us that in the event health officials require New Jersey schools to close, home instruction services will be available to our students. Home instruction services are permitted to be provided "online" or by "any other means developed by the school district to meet the needs of its students."

As a result, all parents of Pre-K-6 students will receive a home instruction packet in their child's bookbag on **Friday, March 13, 2020**. In grades 6-12, all students have 1:1 laptops. We will activate a link on our district website specific to procedures and guidelines for at-home, online learning for parents and students.

We are communicating some important ideas to our families so that you can also prepare in advance for any possible school closures if they should occur.

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Here are some points to consider as you plan:

If schools need to close for one day or several days, **alternate childcare** may need to be found, depending on the age of your child. Consider your options and talk about your backup plan with those who may be able to help, such as **grandparents and neighbors**.

If students are to work from home, they will need a **comfortable workspace** in the home where they can readily find the tools they need, including online access. This space should be visible to parents as students may need supervision.

Familiarize yourself with your **teacher's website** regularly to view updates.

Finally, we all should be aware that the widespread conversations and news coverage about the coronavirus may be disconcerting to some children. I have provided you with some guidance from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and School Nurses (NASN) about Talking to Children about COVID-19: A Parent Resource. Please see attached links below for your reference.

As always, we appreciate and value your partnership in working together for the best interest of all our children.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mark Silverstein
Superintendent

Talking to Children about COVID-19: A Parent Resource

For information on the Coronavirus, please visit the following websites:

NJ Department of Health:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

Center for Disease Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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Business Administrator

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March 16, 2020

Dear Glassboro School District Families,

With our school district closing temporarily, we know that food may be a concern for some of our Glassboro families. Glassboro Public School District and our food service provider, Chartwells, have developed a plan to help.

During this closure, parents/guardians throughout our school district can pick up a prepackaged breakfast and lunch for students, Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., at the Dorothy L. Bullock School (370 New Street East). The meals will be provided without a cost to families.

Families who are driving will follow a one-way traffic pattern through the parking lot. Cars will enter the Dorothy L. Bullock School parking lot via New Street East, pick up meals in front of the school and exit through the usual exit onto New Street East. Families who arrive on foot will receive meal packages on the right side of the building (when facing the building). Bullock parents may know the latter location as the morning parent-student drop off area.

All meals will meet the required nutrition guidelines of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture School Nutrition Program. If you have any questions regarding nutrition, please contact the food service director Margaret McClaskey at mmclaskey@gpsd.us or 856-652-2700, extension 4711.

We will use our website, www.gpsd.us, and our school messenger system's telephone/email blasts to let families know of any changes to this plan.

We will miss your children during our closure and look forward to welcoming them back when schools reopen. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Johnson

Jennifer Johnson
Business Administrator

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March 16, 2020

Dear Glassboro School District Staff and Families,

As announced over the weekend, Glassboro Public Schools will follow health precautions and temporarily close beginning Tuesday, March 17. This also places us in accordance with Governor Murphy's directive to close New Jersey Schools. We hope to reopen on March 30; however, we will need to reassess the situation as we move forward based on the recommendations of the Governor, the New Jersey Department of Health, and the New Jersey Department of Education.

All students have been given assignments. Students in Pre-K through Grade 5 received packets to complete. Students in Grades 6 through 12 have been provided with online assignments to complete via Google Classroom. Please access Teacher Webpages daily. All work will be graded.

Parent/teacher conferences for Grades Pre-K through 6 will be held by phone this year. Teachers will reach out to you about scheduling a time.

We know that this is a unique and difficult situation. We want to remain available throughout the closure. Teachers will be checking email twice daily, 9 a.m. and 12 p.m., and should respond to all parent communication received during those time periods by 3 p.m. Guidance and CST Case Manager services will be available by email and phone. Nurses will also be available by email and phone.

Glassboro School District and our food services provider, Chartwells, have worked together on a plan to provide families with an opportunity to pick up breakfast and lunch during our closure. You will receive a letter with additional details from Business Administrator Jennifer Johnson.

We will continue to update all of you any with any new information or developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Silverstein".

Mark J. Silverstein
Superintendent

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