



PERTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent of Schools

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Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Dear Staff,

In an effort to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19, all Perth Amboy Public Schools will be closed effective tomorrow, Wednesday, March 18, 2020 until further notice in accordance with Governor Murphy's mandate. However, the entire administrative team was required to report to work today, along with various essential personnel needed to complete a few remaining tasks. The District has made a decision to ensure that we provide our staff with a healthy and safe environment. Therefore, a majority of staff will be working remotely. However, I can assure you that I will be monitoring the District with my dedicated administrative team and the Board of Education.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those staff members who reported to work on Monday, March 16, 2020 for an emergency professional development day to assist the District in achieving an incredible accomplishment: preparing remote learning for our students, while concurrently providing all children with the opportunity to receive three meals per day during school closure. Let us pause for a moment to reflect on the following: Yesterday, we distributed 650 meals to students and we expect this number to increase significantly over time. Due to our staff and stakeholders throughout the City of Perth Amboy, 650 students will not go hungry. What a wonderful accomplishment for all of us to share! Please see links below to articles on Perth Amboy Public School's emergency food service plan published on MyCentralJersey.com and NJ.com websites.

<https://www.mycentraljersey.com/story/perthamboypublicschools>

<https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/perthamboy/>

To continue the education and success of our students, the District has ensured teachers have provided academic assignments so students will not fall behind. Effective tomorrow, Wednesday, March 18, 2020, all staff will sign in for attendance using the Perth Amboy Public School District website www.paps.net and follow directions listed under "Resources for Staff". If you are going to be absent, please use AESOP to report your absence.

The implementation of our remote learning is robust due to all of our educators pulling together. Today, all remaining student work has been mailed out to students. At least 1,000 pieces have already been delivered to the Post Office. However, we are experiencing minor delays from the local Post Office due to the volume that needs to be processed and are working with neighboring Post Office's to assist us as we complete this task.

As you can see a great many gallant efforts have been undertaken to ensure that students work is delivered so remote learning can continue. Students are responsible for completing their at home assignments. Students and parents have been made aware to communicate via email with their teachers for support or questions they are having with assignments and/or technology. When the District returns to a regular instructional school schedule, students are required to turn in completed assignments upon their return to school.

As our remote learning plan is implemented, it is essential that staff have contact information for students enabling and ensuring communication with them during this time. Some staff members have asked for clarification in regards to sharing their personal phone numbers with students. While it is not a requirement, this decision is up to each individual staff member as to what they believe would be in the best interest of their students. Just as the Perth Amboy Federation President and I have shared our personal phone numbers for expedient communication. If a teacher has previously shared their personal phone number with parents, they may continue to do so if they so desire as this decision is the individual staff members to make.

Please make sure you are actively engaging, communicating regularly and sharing relevant District correspondence with your parents and students during the school closure. If you are in need of any assistance during this time, please contact your building principal. Note that all District Administrators are also working remotely and are required to actively monitor their emails to answer any questions or concerns, which may arise.

Please be patient as we navigate through this unknown territory together and know that Perth Amboy Public School District is committed to providing the best educational experience for our students during this national crisis.

Lastly, I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the Board of Education for working so closely with me to ensure that our staff continues to receive their pay throughout this challenging time in our nation. Although it is unclear as to what remains before us, as we navigate this new uncharted territory, I am confident that as long as we remain united, we will continue to make positive strides on behalf of caring for our students.

Please visit our website for more information at www.paps.net. Please stay healthy and follow-up on all precautionary measures outlined for you in previous correspondence. Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation as we work through this very difficult time together.

Sincerely,

Dr. David A. Roman

03/17/2020

Dr. David A. Roman
Superintendent of Schools

DAR:mdr

cc: Dr. Vivian Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Delvis Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent of Administration
Perth Amboy Board of Education
Isabel Machado, Esq. Board Attorney