



March 9, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Recently, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) provided school districts with guidance to start planning and preparing for the delivery of virtual instruction in the event that our schools are ordered to be closed for an extended period of time due to a health related issue. In order for these virtual instruction days to count toward the state's 180-day statutory requirement, any order to close schools would have to come from the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission or the New Jersey Department of Health. Our district had already begun to work on such a plan several weeks ago in anticipation.

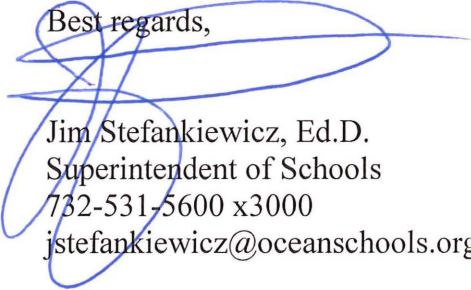
There are many issues that need to be considered regarding virtual instruction. We are working with our staff, parents, community leaders and the NJDOE to gather information and mobilize resources so we can be as prepared as possible for this unprecedented initiative. It is imperative that the needs of all students are considered.

While we are working on our district plan, we continue to thoroughly clean and disinfect our facilities and buses throughout the day and after school and our students and athletes are being reminded to practice proper hygiene. We ask that you reinforce proper hygiene with your child at home. We also remind you to keep your child home if he or she is sick. As a general rule of thumb, children should be symptom free for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

In addition, I am including an excellent resource on how to discuss COVID-19 with your child. It is important that we remain calm and reassure them that much is being done throughout our community to keep them safe. [https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

We will be providing more information in the near future regarding the district's plan to provide virtual instruction if needed. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,


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