

Good Afternoon,

The Cresskill School District suffered extensive damage from Tropical Storm Ida last night. The interior of our Middle/High School building has been devastated by water damage. The electrical work, floors, classrooms, auditorium, media center, and offices will all require extensive remediation over a significant period of time. All three buildings will be without internet access indefinitely. We currently have the OEM, Cresskill Fire Department, and Cresskill Police Department assisting our staff with water removal and ground repair. I have also contacted county and state officials regarding funding opportunities for emergency relief.

The damage to the Middle/High School will have a substantial impact on our educational process this year. While I do not have specific details beyond the near future, I want to provide you as much information as possible to help prepare your family for the school year.

- **Edward H. Bryan School and Merritt Memorial School will be open for students as scheduled next Thursday, September 9th.** Students should report to those schools as normal for full-day instruction. Please note that there will be no internet access available and no streaming capabilities for families. We hope to have internet access soon, but cannot provide a specific timetable as to when that will be available.
- **Cresskill Middle/High School will be closed indefinitely.** All students in grades 6-12 should prepare for an all-virtual remote education starting next Thursday morning. We are hoping to mimic the traditional bell schedule, but students will need to work virtually from home. We are actively looking for alternate buildings to use for in-person education, but those opportunities will not be available at the start of the school year. Families of students in Grades 6-12 should plan for virtual instruction over a multiple month time period.
- **Extra-curricular activities (Marching Band, PACT, athletics) will need to be rescheduled.** Currently, students cannot practice on the MS/HS grounds. Since the majority of damage is to the interior of the building, we anticipate students being able to again use the outdoor areas in a much shorter period of time.

What I witnessed today at the MS/HS will provide the greatest challenge our district has seen in decades. Following last year's COVID challenges, this will present a daunting task for all the Cresskill students, school district personnel, parents, and community members. However, I have no doubt that we will again come together as a Cresskill family to succeed in the face of very difficult circumstances.

As always, thank you for your support. I will contact you again as soon as we have more information.

Best,  
Michael Burke