

Fair Lawn Public Schools

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Nicholas J. Norcia
Superintendent of Schools

March 20, 2020

Dear Fair Lawn Community,

We have officially completed Fair Lawn's Distance Learning Day 5 of and I could not be more proud of our students, parents, teachers and community for adjusting so quickly!

Just last week we were educating 5,400 students within the four walls of our classroom - and in under a week we prepared, adapted, modified, and are now successfully educating all of those students at home. As the nature of COVID-19 seems to change hourly, we continue to grow and adapt as we embark further into this uncharted territory.

That being said, I wanted to provide you with some updates that occurred this week and as we move along with ***Fair Lawn's Distance Learning Plan***:

- Although there are several confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Fair Lawn, as of today, there are zero cases of any students or staff members in Fair Public Schools.
- With the rising number of positive cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, Fair Lawn is preparing for additional weeks of instruction should the Department of Health and the Department of Education determine our schools should be closed longer.
- On March 11th, a technology needs survey was sent home to all families in Fair Lawn and based off of the survey results, Chromebooks and personal Mifi internet devices were provided to families who required them to ensure that everyone had access to ***Fair Lawn's Distance Learning Plan*** from the comfort of their home.
- Although this is a change in how we deliver instruction, it is important that students participate on a daily basis. The Department of Education is allowing school districts to count the mandatory 180-day requirement by proving attendance through participation. As relayed in the March 13, 2020 NJDOE Memo, *Guidance Regarding Requirements for Public Health Related Services Closure*, "Any day on which all students impacted by a health related closure have access to home instruction services provided consistent with the guidance in this memo will count as a day on which the board of education has provided public school facilities toward its compliance with the 180-day requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9." Because such instruction is provided, all students can be recorded as present for applicable days unless the district knowingly determines a student was not participating in any such instruction during health related school closures.
- If you have any questions regarding technology, please email remotesupport@fairlawnschools.org.
- The outbreak of COVID-19 may be stressful for our students. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in children. Resources can be found on our district website, as well as visiting the website www.virusanxiety.com

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In such a tumultuous time, I can't thank our staff, parents, custodians, and community enough for rising to the occasion. Thank you for all your heartfelt and positive comments and emails, and please continue to send pictures of our greatest treasure, your children.

I have one last request, despite what we are facing there is one thing I am certain about.....positivity is contagious and this is when we all need to come together as one community and that is what makes Fair Lawn so special!

Sincerely,



Nicholas J. Norcia,
Superintendent of Schools