

MADISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mark Schwarz, *Superintendent*



359 Woodland Road
Madison, NJ 07940
(973) 593-3101
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March 13, 2020

RE: Extended School Closure until Friday, March 27, 2020

Madison Families,

Today I visited each of our schools to assess our staff and student readiness for remote learning. I was proud to find that the Dodgers were prepared at a level that exceeded my already high expectations. Innovation and collaboration is thriving among our professionals as they endeavor to make accommodations to protect the families of Madison. I can say with certainty that our staff and students are now well-positioned to effectively engage in virtual instruction.

After many weeks of studying the spread of COVID-19 and communicating with our Health Official, it is my professional opinion that we stand at a unique crossroad moment when the actions that we take have the power to save the lives of vulnerable community members. Therefore, in accordance with Executive County Superintendent approval of the implementation of the MPS School Closure Remote Learning Plan, I hereby announce that **all Madison Public Schools will be closed Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020** for the purpose of reducing the rate of spread of COVID-19 and increasing opportunities for our healthcare systems to meet the inevitable needs of our vulnerable populations.

Please note that classes will resume remotely for students according to the district calendar effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020. During this period of closure, the district will continuously engage our Department of Education and Department of Health officials to evaluate the conditions of COVID-19 transmission. By Thursday, March 26, 2020, the district will reach a decision to extend our closure or resume normal operations. This decision will be shared with families at that time.

Please note that the Madison Public School leadership understands the hardships that this closure will place on some families. We also respect that this is a new educational endeavor presenting unforeseen challenges. We will do whatever we can to support you and we will get through this together.

Included with this message is our MPS School Closure – Remote Learning Plan for your reference. Today, principals will be sending information with school level details. Follow up communication from the district will continue to ensure that all families have access to learning materials, food service and any other appropriate accommodations.

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Families needing device or internet access can receive support by completing the [MPS Technology Survey](#). After completing the form, the district will contact you as necessary.

Best wishes for good health to you and your loved ones. We will look forward to communicating with you again soon and engaging your students virtually next week.

Sincerely,

Mark Schwarz
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Board of Education
Madison Public School Staff
Bob Conley, Mayor
Ray Codey, Borough Administrator
Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Executive County Superintendent
F. Michael Fitzpatrick, Health Officer