



Lafayette Township School District

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March 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The students of the Lafayette Township School District continue to shine each and every day! It is so amazing to walk through the building and observe the students learning and growing as individuals and members of their classrooms! Thank you for your continued support in making every day a great day for our students!

COVID-19 Update –As a parent and an educator, I recognize how stressful this situation is as you watch the news and hear about different perspectives via various outlets. Please know that we are taking every precaution possible to safeguard our students from this virus. We have instituted additional hand washing requirements for all students throughout the school day and have installed hand sanitizing stations around the building. All surfaces are being disinfected daily with some areas such as water fountains and other high use areas being disinfected throughout the day.

In response to the spread of COVID-19 throughout the world, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) have been providing frequent updates to schools regarding the potential impact of this virus on our schools, students, and communities. All broadcast notifications provided by the NJDOE can be viewed at <https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts/>. These updates provide districts with guidance and links to resources regarding COVID-19.

On March 3, 2020, all school districts received an update from the NJDOE regarding updated COVID-19 guidance for childcare and K-12 schools. Then on March 5, 2020, all school districts received further guidance from the NJDOE regarding requirements for public health-related school closures. The NJDOH guidance identifies school closure as a potential strategy to limit transmission of COVID-19 within a community. The NJDOE has directed all school districts to plan and prepare for this possibility. According to the 3/5/20 update, “In the event that a board of education is provided with a written directive by either the NJDOH or the health officer of the jurisdiction to institute a public health-related closure, the board of education may utilize home instruction to provide instructional services to enrolled students.”

In response to this broadcast, our school district is planning and preparing for the possibility of having to implement a remote learning situation for our students so that our school days count towards the 180-day requirement. Our teachers are creating lists of digital resources, online

platforms, online programs, and other digital content should the need arise to hold instruction in a virtual capacity. Additionally hard copy packets of content and resources are being created for our youngest learners or for those students who may not have access to technology at their homes. On Monday you will be receiving a survey in hard copy that requests your child's name, grade, and the answers to the following two questions.

1. Do you have access to a computer or device at home that can be utilized for virtual learning if needed?
2. Can you access the Internet at home using some type of computer or device?

Please complete the survey and send it back by Friday, 3/13/20. This information will help us to troubleshoot potential issues and needs to preserve a high-quality learning experience for all students should remote learning become a reality.

Please contact me with any specific questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 and our district preparedness plan. Together we will keep our community healthy and learning in the face of this challenge.

Mid Marking Period, Quarter Three – All parents are reminded to go onto the parent portal to view their child's progress in their classes. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have concerns regarding your child's progress in school.

Preliminary Board of Education Budget Meeting – Please join us for our annual Preliminary Budget Meeting on Wednesday, March 18th at 7 pm. We are very proud to share the great work that our district is doing for our students and our community!

8th Grade American Revolution Immersion Project Fishbowl Debate – Please join us for this amazing event to be held on Friday, March 20th at 1:30 pm in the MPR. The fishbowl debate will be the culmination of a week-long 8th grade American Revolution Immersion Project. Loyalists and Colonists will debate who was to blame for the American Revolution! All 8th grade parents are invited to attend this event!

Thank you for your continued support of our students and school district. Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Cenatiempo