

WHARTON BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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“Learn to Thrive in a Dynamic World”

Marie V. Duffy Elementary School

“Governor’s School of Excellence”
Pamela S. Blalock, Principal

Alfred C. MacKinnon Middle School

Dr. Patrick Ketch, Principal

Christopher Herdman
Superintendent

Sandy Cammarata
Business Administrator

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Director of
Curriculum & Instruction

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Director of Special Education
& Child Study Team Services

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137 East Central Avenue
Wharton, NJ 07885

March 13, 2020

Dear Wharton Public School District Parents and Guardians,

My March 9, 2020 letter informed the Wharton School Community of the steps that the district has proactively taken to ensure the cleanliness of the facilities and also shared that the district was developing a plan to provide “Distance Learning” for students should the need arise. With this current health issue, the State made “Distance Learning” an option to school districts on March 6, 2020 and will allow these remote learning days to count towards the 180 school day requirement. While nothing can replace the direct instruction that our skilled staff provides in person, we have developed a plan to provide instruction of district curriculum and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

School will be in session on Monday, March 16 with a 12:40 dismissal. This will afford students the opportunity to bring items they need from lockers and classrooms home. On Tuesday, March 17, the district will use one of four remaining “snow days” that have been built into the school calendar and have not been utilized due to the mild winter weather. In this time, teachers will finalize their platforms and planning for this “virtual instruction”. Virtual home instruction will begin for students on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. “Distance Learning” will continue through March 27, 2020 at which point a reevaluation will occur.

Distance Learning Plan:

Schedule: Student learning activities will be posted each day by 9:00 am and teachers will be available for student questions via Google Apps or email between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00pm with the exception of lunch from 12:00pm – 1:00pm. Teachers will host lessons in Google Classroom and post assignments, resources and links each day.

To best accommodate student learning in Pre-K to Grade 2, some instructional materials will be sent home with your child, while resources will be posted in Google Apps. Should additional or printed copies be needed, they will be available for pick up in the Duffy Office beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

Teachers will be available for student questions and support via Google Apps and through their email. Attendance will be monitored and credited as students complete and/or submit class assignments on due dates and log into Google Apps.

What if my family does not have the internet or a device at home? On March 12, a message was sent to all student families directing you to reach out to your child’s school office. You will be contacted by your school’s office to pick up a device from the school and sign a lending agreement. This must be done by a parent or legal guardian.

Families who need a device will be issued one.

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"In partnership with the community, the Wharton School district is committed to educational excellence and guarantees challenging learning opportunities for all students to become life-long learners and productive and responsible members of society. It is the expectation of this school district that all pupils achieve the new jersey core curriculum content standards at all grade levels."

Students without internet access at home will be provided access by the district via our contract with Optimum/Lightpath. Their district Chromebooks will automatically connect to the district's internet access

What if Tech Support is needed? Students or parents can contact our IT Department at 973-361-1253 X327 or X328 from 9:00 am – 3:00pm. Our IT Department will respond as soon as it is possible.

Students with specific learning needs such as IEPs, English Language Learners etc:

Accommodations for individual learning needs will be addressed and modifications will be provided to students within assignments and learning activities. Special needs staff will also have lessons and activities posted. Individual needs and services can be provided with communication between that staff member and the student family.

Nutrition Program: Students enrolled in the Wharton School District are eligible to have breakfast/lunch, should it be needed, available for pick up in the Duffy Security Vestibule, on a daily basis, Monday – Friday, between 9am – 11am. These meals will be cold and packaged in a “Grab and Go” style.

All school policies apply during “Distance Learning” days. All student usage of Google Classroom and other learning avenues are subject to the District Acceptable Use Policy which was signed by students and student families at the beginning of the school year.

Our school counselors and case managers will continue to meet the needs of our students. They can be reached out to via email.

During this period, office staff will be available on a daily basis, Monday – Friday, from 9:00am – 3:00pm, should you need direct assistance from the school.

As always, thank you for your constant and continual support of our school district as we prepare for extraordinary circumstances.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Herdman

Christopher J. Herdman
Superintendent