



PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

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March 15, 2020

Dear Port Washington Union Free School District community,

This afternoon, the Port Washington Union Free School District was notified that Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, in coordination with the Nassau County Department of Health, has ordered all schools throughout Nassau County be closed for two weeks starting tomorrow, Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 28. The executive order was given as part of the County's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). During this extended period of closure, the District will initiate additional rounds of sanitizing and cleaning of all District facilities. The District is working with the Department of Health to discuss the full extent of precautions that we should be taking.

Please note that a Districtwide closure means all school activities, meetings, events, including PTA events, sports etc. are canceled. We do not currently have specific information on the rescheduling of these activities. Once decisions are made when, and if, rescheduling will occur, we will get that information out to the community and the specific groups impacted. For more information about community resources and updates on specific programs, please visit the District's website:

<https://www.portnet.org/Domain/1>

We understand that this announcement poses an inconvenience to our community. The spread of the coronavirus is continuously changing the world we are living in. This is an evolving situation and we thank you for your patience and flexibility. While we know the closure is a disruption, it is important to remember that every step we take is intended to put the safety of our community first.

Over the past several weeks, the Port Washington Union Free School District's district administration and Board of Education have been working diligently to prepare for the potential of school closures to ensure our students' educational experience is not interrupted during this time of uncertainty. On Tuesday, the District will use the time for a Superintendent's Conference Day which will be devoted exclusively to considering options and resources that can be leveraged to ensure an equitable and viable plan ensuring educational continuity for all grade levels. We will be following up with parents and students to coordinate plans for any digital learning platforms and

other resources we will be making available so that our students will be able to productively use their time away from our school buildings. Though we recognize that this cannot take the place of in-class instruction, this will help bridge the gap until we are back in school.

We also understand that families whose children rely on food services from the District are concerned about how this will be maintained during school closures. For those families whose children are enrolled in the district's food programs, we have made arrangements to have these services available Monday-Friday. We will have three locations for our students in need regarding breakfast and lunch – the high school lobby, the Daly Elementary School Teacher's parking lot and the parking lot at Our Lady of Fatima. Food will be given out from a district school bus at OLF, no identification required. Hours for pick up are 7 a.m. – 10 a.m., and we will include both breakfast and lunch. There will be some soy-free, gluten-free meals available and so marked.

This is a difficult time for all of us. For those with questions about the District's protocols and procedures, I encourage you to call my office. I will have access to voice mail and will return your call as soon as possible. If you have any questions about specific, individual school-related items that you may need more information about, please call your child's principal's office. They too will have access to any messages left for them. For any medical-related questions, please contact the Nassau County Department of Health or your family physician.

We thank you for your continued patience and understanding

Sincerely,

Michael Hynes, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools