



# PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

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March 20, 2020

Dear Port Washington Families,

First and foremost, I hope this letter finds you well and your families safe and healthy. I am proud that we've successfully made it through the first week of school closure, and I'd like to thank you and our staff for your patience, commitment and flexibility during this very difficult and unprecedented time.

Earlier today, Governor Cuomo ordered non-essential businesses to keep 100% of their employees at home. We realize this will mean many of you who may have still been going to work this week will now be remaining at home going forward. For those of you who have children at home, it will be a new challenge balancing working from home and caring for your children, keeping them on track with their online and other educational activities. While difficult, I can personally tell you it can be done and opens up new possibilities for engaging with your family. It can be fun and uplifting... it has been for me and my family.

With more of us now at home, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate how important it is to continue practicing social distancing with family members and friends. I also ask that you please continue to follow rules and make going outside a solitary experience, if at all possible.

I would like to assure you that the Board of Education and I have been in constant communication and will continue to virtually meet through next week to make the best decisions for the families and students of the Port Washington community as this situation evolves.

In terms of next week's scheduled Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, that will take place virtually. We will post on the district's website more information as arrangements for that virtual Board meeting are finalized.

Today, we received notification from the NYS Board of Education that as a result of the closure of schools and the need for school districts to keep our focus on the immediate needs of our students and community, the administration of the 2020 elementary and intermediate-level state assessments have been suspended for the balance of the current school year.

As you are aware, our staff implemented our district-wide remote learning plans this week. Please know this is a process and we understand it is also a learning curve for all of us. As a district, we are aware that many of our parents at home are balancing their own work, the school work of their children, as well as making sure there is ample food and other essentials at home. I ask that everyone take a big deep breath and do their best to not be overwhelmed with everything. As a community, let's take this one day at a time. Rest assured, we will work this all out together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Hynes".

Michael J. Hynes, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
MJH/da