



Port Washington School District

MARCH/APRIL 2020

COVID-19 COMMUNITY UPDATE

Please visit the district's website for all up-to-date information on COVID-19 as it relates to the district.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Port Washington Families,

The coronavirus crisis has certainly challenged all of us to face a new normal over the last few weeks, and it is one we must adapt to for the time being. I would like to recognize and thank all of the Port Washington staff and faculty for the herculean efforts demonstrated in helping our district, students and families transition to these new circumstances. On behalf of our Board of Education and all of our district personnel, I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our deep appreciation to all the first responders, medical professionals, and all who are helping combat COVID-19 for their service and commitment to the safety and health of the Port Washington community.

It's unfortunate how many moments in the school year have been or will be cancelled. Many students were working toward academic or extracurricular goals that were set to come to fruition in the late winter and spring months. But just as coursework is being completed in the online classroom, there are opportunities that this unique situation offers in other areas of student growth. If you are a science research student, perhaps the extra time allows for an additional deep dive into a subject; if you are a student-athlete, perhaps you can hone in on a skill at home that you want to improve; and the list goes on. I challenge all students to find opportunities for themselves to continue toward their goals, despite this new normal. Although we are not able to see many of our close colleagues and friends, we are in this together, and as a District, we will continue to make our community proud.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Hynes
Superintendent of Schools

ATTENTION FIRST RESPONDERS IN THE PORT WASHINGTON COMMUNITY:

Various organizations across Nassau and Suffolk Counties are offering free child care for first responders. Visit [here](#) for more information.

At-Home Learning

Teachers have been in constant contact with students and provided as much online learning, lectures, and supplemental learning as possible. Students are logging into a Google Classroom daily and are able to communicate with teachers regularly. Please visit [here](#) for all online curriculum resources the district is using for at-home and supplemental learning.

Closing of District Outdoor Facilities

Updated restrictions have been placed on state, county, town and local parks and recreation facilities in an effort to control the spread and transmission of the coronavirus. In order to comply with these restrictions, the Port Washington School District has closed the use of its outdoor facilities until further notice, including all district playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, athletic fields and tracks, and restroom facilities.

For information concerning restrictions for local village parks, please visit the individual village website. To learn about the specific restrictions in county and town parks, please visit these websites:

[Nassau County](#)

[Town of North Hempstead](#)

SIGNIFICANCE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

From federal health officials, down to the communications from local health authorities, we should all understand that social distancing is the single most critical factor in flattening the curve, mitigating the spread of this virus, and helping to limit the demands on our health care system, hospitals and other health care facilities.

- If you feel ill, make sure to self-isolate for at least 14 days.
- Take the time to wash your hands often and for at least 20 seconds at a time.
- If you are around people, make sure to maintain a distance of 6 feet apart.
- Avoid traveling unless it is necessary or for essentials.
- Avoid touching your face for any reason.
- It is strongly recommended that everyone wear a mask or cover their face when they do go outside.

Even while district schools are closed, we remain in constant contact with state and county health departments and the NYS Education Department and will continue to follow guidelines issued by these government agencies as they relate to the coronavirus and protocols to be followed by school districts. Until directed otherwise by NCDOH, NYSDOH and NYSDOE, Port Washington UFSD will remain closed until further notice. We will be mindful of the overwhelming flow of news from the media and try to limit our district updates to new information that is primarily focused on district operations and your children's education and health.

For all up-to-date recommendations and guidelines from the CDC, [click here](#).

MEAL PICK-UP

The Port Washington School District began providing breakfast and lunch for ALL children on March 23, 2020.

The meals are available for pick-up at the high school lobby, Daly parking lot, Our Lady of Fatima RC Church parking lot, Harbor Homes (72 Harbor Road), and the Community Chest of Port Washington. Meals are provided on Monday (for two days), Wednesday (for two days), and Friday (for Saturday and Sunday), and meals can be picked up from 7 a.m. to noon. Please look for a SCHOOL BUS at each location to find the exact pick-up point.