



Florham Park Public Schools
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April 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff:

RE: Extension of School Closures (May 15th), Appreciation, Team Effort, District Updates

- **[Governor Murphy Extends School Closures \(May 15\)](#)**

Governor Murphy announced yesterday that all New Jersey schools will remain closed at least until May 15th. Therefore, the Florham Park Schools will continue to provide distance learning to our students during this time. Thank you to our administration and staff for preparing a top notch instructional [distance learning platform](#) to withstand an elongated period of closure, as we are currently experiencing, and to our incredible parents and students for their efforts at home.

- **Positive Attitude/Appreciation**

Though disappointed, but not surprised by the Governor's decision to extend school closures to May 15th, we must all try to remain optimistic and positive. We have to always remember that our attitude impacts our child(ren) and our child(ren) are very impressionable at the Pre-K/Gr.8 ages and need reassurance and support. No one wants to be back at school and seeing the students in their classes and interacting together more than I do, but going through this experience has taught me to appreciate these moments and life even more. Unfortunately, many of our families and/or friends have been impacted by COVID-19, some being hospitalized and some unfortunately having passed. Our thoughts are all with them and their families during this difficult time and this alone is reason to appreciate what we do have... family, friends, colleagues, supportive community, etc.

- **Team Effort**

What has impressed me with our district the most has been how well we have ALL come together to deal with our current situation. The staff and administration articulate and reflect constantly on how to improve the learning platform, while taking into consideration student/parents concerns and specific family situations. The district has been in regular communication with the NJ Department of Education, Chief Orlando, Mayor Taylor, our local Department of Health and the FP/EH/Hanover Township Office of Emergency Management. The Florham Park PTA and Education Foundation, along with the United Way of Northern NJ, have provided our parents and the community with flyers to assist; spanning from activities to raise spirits to helping those in need. Definitely a team effort!

- **District Updates, including but are not limited to:**

- Continually reflecting and improving upon our distance learning platform with stakeholder input
- Posted for the RMS Principal position (*Congratulations again to Mr. Christ!*)
- Creating a Principal Search Action Plan that will be provided to the public shortly
- Posting and interviewing for 2020/21 staff positions
- Scheduling and placement for staff/students for the 2020/21 school year

- Meetings surrounding the *potential* of school closures lasting until June, the entire year, or even possibly into September. We want to be prepared for all scenarios with multiple contingency plans!
- Preparing for our special education summer Extended School Year (ESY) program
- Meetings to discuss alternative plans for specific end of year activities
- Preparing internal documents for the NJ Dept.of Education monitoring of FPPS this spring (QSAC)
- [Referendum Project](#) meetings have continued to take place with the schedule remaining as planned
 - Being proactive, small projects have already been scheduled since Governor Murphy's decision to extend school closures to May 15th. These small jobs will be completed prior to May 15th. Longer projects are not able to be scheduled within this 30 day time period provided by the Governor.

I hope that you all had a chance to relax a bit during Spring Break. The health and safety of our students and staff remain paramount when making many of our difficult decisions and we appreciate your cooperation and understanding. The District will continue to monitor the situation and provide further communication when appropriate.

Sincerely,

Steven Caponegro

Dr. Steven Caponegro
 Superintendent of Schools

“Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.”

- Vince Lombardi