

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

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Dear SPF Community,

All of us have as our primary mission, the education, health and safety of our students, faculty and staff. Faced with the unknown challenges of COVID-19 to our area, the NJDOE is providing updates and developing guidelines for the ways in which our districts will respond should the need become more urgent. At this time, our Health Department will continue to provide the latest guidance from NJDOH and NJDOE as changes occur. Planning is essential, but compared to the Flu levels, current COVID-19 levels are still low in New Jersey and the United States.

At a meeting held by the DOE on March 6, the decision was made that should the area governments decide that the district be closed, we are empowered to set up a plan to instruct remotely and continue student learning. If our proposed plan is approved, the days will count as official school days.

We will be collaborating at all levels to design such a plan if the interruption of face-to-face instruction should occur. Some of the factors that we anticipate needing in our approach are as follows:

- The design may require teachers to creatively adapt and transform lessons so that they are instructive without the traditional classroom supports. All subject areas will have varied designs that will be different to suit their individual curriculum plans and objectives, i.e., the plan for math will differ from that of English.
- Whatever is designed will have to reach every student, taking into consideration that students currently have varying resources, some electronic, others paper texts, others on-line resources, etc.
- Establishing modes of ongoing communication at all levels will be imperative to monitor student progress and learning. We will need to suggest ways to help students/faculty meet the challenges that we know exist:
 - Little or no internet access at home
 - Varied supervision/support at home to complete assignments
 - Students who are enrolled out-of-district
 - Students with varying degrees of accommodations including I and RS, 504 plans and IEPs
 - Ensuring continuation of food services for those who qualify

Thank you for following the precautions that the CDC has published to stay healthy. At this point, the guidance from the NJDOE emphasizes that the most important thing for schools to do now is plan and prepare. We are awaiting specific guidelines from the NJDOE to determine if we will need a half-day or a full day of planning for the possible event of school closures. We will continue to keep you up to date.

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