



Olga Hugelmeyer  
Superintendent of Schools

April 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Elizabeth Public Schools remains closed in accordance with Governor Murphy's stay at home order, as New Jersey prepares for a potential surge of the COVID-19 virus in the coming weeks. With that in mind, I hope this message finds you and yours as well as possible. We are all adjusting to changes in how we lead our daily lives, especially in respect to finding a balanced structure for learning, for work, and for family time at home. While we need to remain focused on our students and their ongoing academic needs, we also recognize that this situation requires people to attend to personal and family social emotional needs as well.

Elizabeth Public Schools has been working hard to address important inquiries from students, team members, and parents about our next steps. These include questions about supporting our most vulnerable learners, providing meals for children in our community, and how younger students might participate in online learning experiences. Please know we are also looking at how we will address grading and reports cards, course credits, transcripts and college applications, and the meaningful end of year events like prom and graduation.

In time, we will have answers to all of these questions and others. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we tackle the issues within our learning community and continue to adapt to those matters beyond our control.

### **Making Progress Toward our E-Remote Learning Plan**

Anticipating that our schools may remain closed for a longer duration, Elizabeth Public Schools is canceling plans to observe spring recess. The Elizabeth Board of Education voted unanimously last night to continue to hold school virtually Tuesday, April 14, through Friday, April 17. It is important that we continue to support all of our students with consistency. Please note that Easter recess will be observed on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. E-Remote Learning will not take place on these two dates in observance of the holiday.

Our instructional team is working on the development of Phase 2 of a long-term E-Remote Learning Plan. The program has been in development for two weeks and will be launched on April 21. Parents of students in Preschool through Grade 2 and students with disabilities in grades PK-12 will receive packets in the mail that include instructional activities for student to complete while E-Remote learning is in progress.

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### **Office of the Superintendent of Schools**

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In the last week, EPS educators, including instructional directors, supervisors, and instructional coaches, have led this important transition. They have committed tremendous time and energy to organize course content and design professional development sessions to help enhance remote learning and communication between teachers and families. Next week, our educators will participate in professional development sessions about the online platforms that will be used by teachers to collaborate with colleagues and engage with students remotely as we build on our remote learning program to provide:

- Opportunities for virtual contact with classmates and teacher
- Directed instruction from teacher
- Independent work activities to supplement teacher instruction

### **Laptops**

We are working to address any questions or concerns that you may have regarding your child's laptop. Please contact us at 908-436-5051 or you can email [helpdesk@epsnj.org](mailto:helpdesk@epsnj.org) if you or someone you know needs this support.

### **Grab and Go Breakfast and Lunch Program**

As an essential service, the Elizabeth Public Schools continues to serve meals to families through its grab and go breakfast and lunch program. Meal packages include lunch for the current day and breakfast for the next morning. Meal service is occurring on Monday and Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the following school sites:

School 1 & 9 located at 250 Broadway for all PK-12 students that live in the school 1& 9 zone  
School 28 located at 25 First Street for all PK-12 students that live in the school 28 & 25 zone  
School 52 located at 130 Trumbull Street for all PK-12 students that live in the school 20 & 13 zone  
School 22 located at 612 Pulaski Street for all PK-12 students that live in the school 3, 4, 5, 14, 15 & 19 zone  
School 29 located at 919 North Broad Street for all PK-12 students that live in the school 16, 18, 21 & 12 zone.  
School 23 located at 631-657 Westminster Ave. for all PK-12 students that live in the school 23 & 27 zone  
School 51 located at 544 Pennsylvania Avenue for all PK-12 students that live in the school 2 & 6 zone

*Please note that the week of April 13 through April 17, the grab and go program will only operate on Wednesday, April 15. **The breakfast and lunch program will be closed on Monday, April 13.***

Thank you again for your support as we navigate these challenging times together. Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeier