



April 17, 2020

Dear Elizabeth Community Member:

We hope you and your family are safe and well during this unprecedented time.

Governor Murphy has announced that all public schools in New Jersey will be closed until at least May 15th. The District's E-Remote Learning Plan anticipated this extension and makes provisions for the continuing education of our children. You received details about Phase 2 of the plan this week. It will begin on April 21st.

While no final decisions have been made by the state, **we believe you should anticipate that the remainder of the school year will be conducted through E-Remote Learning.** As of today, school is scheduled to end on June 15, 2020.

These are difficult and trying times. And we need to have confidence in the safety and health protections of children, staff, employees and all members of the Elizabeth Education Community before schools will reopen.

We are meeting the needs of our children and community and while it may not be the way we prefer; our children are progressing and learning. Just a reminder that meals are available to those in need at one of our many locations throughout the City, you can find this information on our website or social media sites.

We would like to thank our teachers and staff who continue to go above and beyond each day - their efforts and dedication to our students does not go unnoticed, but our children continue to impress us.

We know that this situation is stressful for everyone, but it is critical to try to maintain a normal home routine of healthy eating and rest. Remember to take breaks from the news and social media because all of this information can be overwhelming. Many people are feeling anxious, so the state has set up a mental health hotline at 866-202-4357. You can also find important tips and information on how to cope here: <https://www.apa.org/practice/programs/dmhi/research-information/social-distancing>.

Together, we will overcome this virus and we can do so by continue to practice social distancing, safe hygiene practices and wearing face coverings when you are going out for essential items.

Stay safe, healthy and at home. And Stay Strong, Elizabeth.

Sincerely,

J. Christian Bollwage
Mayor

Olga Hugelmeier
Superintendent of Schools