



Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Schools

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Good afternoon, Parsippany Families.

We have completed Day #18 of Distance Learning and have been out of school for more than four weeks. When we first closed, I think most of us anticipated that this would be for 2-3 weeks at most and we would quickly return to our routines. Now, Governor Murphy has closed schools until at least May 15th. This means that many decisions need to be made about grading, spring activities, and more. Some of those decisions are provided in this letter and more will be communicated in the coming weeks.

Thank you for the information and comments you shared in the Parent Survey that was sent before Spring Break. It was extremely valuable to hear your impressions, many of which are reflected in our plans. A summary of the survey results is available on our district website. Here is what we can share at this point:

- We will continue with our regular grading system for the final marking period. We are committed to being adaptable and sensitive to students' unique needs during this time. There will be no final exams.
- We will schedule a half day Inservice Day for the following Fridays: April 24th and May 8th. The half day Inservice Day is intended to provide staff with time to articulate with grade level/department colleagues, plan with paraprofessionals and special education teachers, get up to speed on new technology, and develop lesson plans for the coming week. Principals will communicate what the half day schedule will be; teachers are expected to be available for students/parents during the morning for questions, check-ins, etc.
- As we consider what students need to be successful with Distance Learning, there will be some shifts in expectations for teacher-student online contact. Elementary students may expect increased "live" sessions with their teachers beginning next week.
- Families who qualify for Free/Reduced Meals may now pick up two times a week at Parsippany High School and Parsippany Hills High School on ***Monday (for Monday and Tuesday) and on Wednesday (for Wednesday through Friday)*** between 11:00 a.m. and noon. If your family is unable to pick up a meal at these locations, please speak with your school principal and we will make other arrangements for you.
- Our principals are generating alternate plans for Commencement, National Honor Society Induction, and other important end-of-year traditions, just in case we are unable to gather in person.

Please continue to put your family's health first and let the school leaders/counselors know if you need assistance. School matters because it provides structure and engagement for students at this time. It doesn't, however, take precedence over mental and emotional well-being.

With best wishes for your continued good health,


Dr. Barbara Sargent
Superintendent of Schools

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