



Diane DiGiuseppe
Superintendent

KINNELON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

109 KIEL AVENUE • KINNELON, NEW JERSEY 07405

TEL: (973) 838-1418

Website: www.kinnelonpublicschools.org

Email: digiusepped@kinnelon.org

March 18, 2020

Dear Kinnelon Families,

I appreciate all of the positivity we have received since we initiated the Flexible Instruction Day Plan this past Monday. I am extremely proud of my staff and am very lucky to lead such amazing people. I also wish to thank the community for their patience and understanding during this time of uncertainty. Since each day is fluid and new information surfaces that require us to tweak our plan, I wanted to reach out again today to provide an update with a detailed explanation.

Today I made the decision to close the school buildings to free-flowing traffic of staff and parents. We will continue to provide the high level of customer service this community deserves, but I want to ensure that the health and safety of our staff is also at the forefront of my decision-making.

As of the close of business today, Wednesday, March 18, 2020. All school buildings will be closed. We are happy to accommodate student, parent, and staff needs to get into a building to collect an essential object or resource, however, we ask that you **contact the building office staff via voice mail or email the building principal to make an appointment**. See below for contact information.

Public health experts tell us that there are two phases to controlling a pandemic. The first is containment; you try to limit the geographic spread of the disease through steps like quarantining and contact tracing. For COVID-19 in the United States, we seem to be beyond the point of containment. You then shift to the second phase: mitigation. Here, the goal is to slow the spread of the disease. This accomplishes several things. It buys time to put in place strategies to help the most vulnerable (elderly adults and immunocompromised individuals). It buys time to develop medical interventions. And, most importantly, it distributes the cases of illness over time, preventing health care systems from being overwhelmed and ultimately if everyone does what they can, it flattens the growth curve of the virus. This is particularly crucial to saving lives.

The best way that we can mitigate the spread of COVID-19 is through social distancing. Simply put, you work to minimize the number of interactions that provide the opportunity for the disease to spread. So, to the extent possible, you limit or eliminate large groups of people coming together and you try to minimize the number of people congregating in close settings. Social distancing also works best when it starts early, even before there is

direct evidence of the disease in the community. That's why we put in place now a plan to move to flexible instruction, even though there I have not been informed of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our immediate community. So at this point, if you need to enter one of our schools, please contact the school by using the identified contact information below. The only exception is that Kinnelon High School continues to be the location for bag-lunch pick up **for students who qualify for free and reduced lunches** between the hours of 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Even though the KHS vestibule will be open during this time, KHS students, parents and staff should still make an appointment to enter the school to retrieve items from a classroom or locker.

- Kinnelon High School – 973-838-5500 when prompted, select 4004 or email sudag@kinnelon.org
- Pearl R. Miller Middle School – 973-838-5250 when prompted, select 5 or email mongonm@kinnelon.org
- Stonybrook School – 973-838-1881 when prompted, select 5 or email mulhollandj@kinnelon.org
- Kiel School – 973-838-0611 when prompted, select 5 or email fisherm@kinnelon.org

Important information:

1. The Board of Education meeting scheduled for March 19, 2020, at 8:00 pm will be a remote/virtual meeting, information regarding virtual attendance and tutorials on joining a Zoom meeting are posted to the district website (www.kinnelonpublicschools.org).

Updated Resources:

[NJ Department of Education Updates and Frequently Asked Questions Related to COVID-19 School Closures](#)

[NJ School Boards Association COVID-19 Resource Center – Updated March 18](#)

[Talking with Children about Coronavirus Disease 2019: Messages for parents, school staff, and others working with children.](#)

[Parents, Get Your Children Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

I strongly encourage all of our students and families to practice social distancing and to avoid large events and gatherings until this situation has settled down. Stay tuned for additional updates.

Sincerely,
Diane DiGiuseppe