



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Livingston Public Schools Community:

I wanted to connect with the community again to reiterate my appreciation for the partnerships that have helped us to keep our schools healthy during this challenging time. I think it is important to reiterate that there have been no confirmed Coronavirus cases in our schools or in the community of Livingston. Additionally, we continue to implement all of the preventative measures as I have indicated in prior communications.

Last night, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) informed all New Jersey school districts that (for the first time) they would allow schools to utilize online learning to satisfy the 180-school-day requirement in the event that schools were ordered closed for an extended period of time by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). This would only go into effect in extenuating circumstances, and (again) ONLY if we were ordered to close by the NJDOH for the purpose of slowing the spread of the virus. We have no reason whatsoever to believe any NJDOH closures are imminent in Livingston.

Although we hope we are never ordered to close, being prepared just in case is important. Consequently, we are planning a change to our calendar, for this coming week, to allow us to provide an essential professional development program to Livingston's educators.

A delayed opening for a Professional Development program was already planned for this coming Tuesday, March 10, 2020. In order to provide our staff with enough time to receive comprehensive training in remote instruction, we have decided to extend the scheduled delayed opening to a full day Professional Development Day for Staff and a school closure for students. School will be closed that day for students. We are utilizing one of our two remaining snow days to allow this to occur. As such, the day will not need to be made up at a later time.

We do not change the school calendar lightly, and we understand that a last minute change like this one can cause real logistical challenges for our families. Under unprecedented circumstances, we simply want to be as prepared as possible, as quickly as possible. We believe that the sooner we can familiarize Livingston's educators with these tools, the better.

I want to absolutely reassure our community that we are NOT closing school on Tuesday for ANY OTHER REASON other than to allow for this important and timely professional development program, so that we can be fully prepared IF the NJDOH decides to close schools for an extended period of time. The change in the day is in no way motivated by concerns about the health of our schools. We have no health-related incidents that would cause us to close. We simply believe that, in the event we are told to close in the future, we need to be ready to deliver the best education possible to our students under those circumstances.

Thank you for your continued patience and flexibility as we navigate this together.

Sincerely,

Matthew Block, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Livingston Public Schools: Empowering all to learn, create, contribute, and grow.