



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Livingston Public Schools Community:

Week two of remote learning has come to a close. Thank you again to our families, students, staff, and community. This is truly a collaborative effort, and we sincerely appreciate all that is being done to make this experience as productive and engaging for our students as possible. I posted a video today with some updates from this week. I encourage you to view the video at the following link: <https://www.livingston.org/Page/1>

Here is what was covered in the video:

- Our educators continue to do an outstanding job delivering remote learning for all of our students. The creativity and effort we have seen from our staff is truly remarkable and it is greatly appreciated. There is so much care out there for the wellbeing of our community. It is inspirational.
- Governor Murphy announced yesterday that all schools in New Jersey will be closed at least until April 17th. He said that he will revisit the issue of school closings at that time. We are prepared to deliver remote instruction as long as we need to. We now know that the absolute earliest date that we will be back together is April 20th.
- Governor Murphy announced this week that New Jersey received a waiver from the United States Department of Education to cancel statewide standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year. There will be no state standardized testing this year. It has been cancelled by the New Jersey Department of Education.
- During this period of virtual learning, when learning is happening on computers in private homes, it is important that we do all we can to maintain the privacy of our students. We have added a statement to our website on this issue. We suggest that you read this statement by clicking on the following link: <https://www.livingston.org/lps-covid19>
- When we closed our school facilities, we also closed our school grounds. Like county and local parks that have also been closed, we believe it is necessary to take this step to encourage social distancing. Members of our security staff are monitoring our school property, and are asking people to exit the school grounds if they are gathering there. We understand that some community members may be properly social distancing while

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on school grounds, but we cannot ask our security staff to determine who is or is not properly observing social distancing, so anyone on school grounds will be asked to leave. We ask that people not visit school grounds during this social distancing period.

- The Livingston Public Schools is actively supporting our community and lending a hand to enhance efforts to combat the Coronavirus. Members of our community are making masks and ventilator parts to donate to area medical facilities, we are donating personal protective equipment to the county for use in testing facilities, reaching out to senior citizens, and more. I am very proud of all of these efforts. As a way to stay connected, I would encourage members of the community to follow Livingston Public Schools, and your child's school on Twitter (every school and most of our administrators have a Twitter page). There have been a lot of posts, and it is a great way to see all of the amazing things that are happening in the Livingston Public Schools during the remote learning period. If you follow Livingston Public Schools @LivSchools, you can see who the district is following (mostly Livingston Schools staff), and follow them as well.

Finally, even though we have been out of school for two weeks (which is the recommended quarantine period), it does not necessarily mean that people around you and around our community are free and clear of carrying the virus. All of the experts are telling us that social distancing continues to be essential if we hope to flatten the curve, and potentially be able to be back together again soon. Please continue to observe social distancing this weekend, and continue to find things that energize, excite, and motivate you. People have been so creative with ways to socially connect while physically distancing. Those activities are highly encouraged.

Be well, and have a great weekend! Go Lancers!

Sincerely,
Matthew J. Block, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools