



ANNA SCIACCA
SUPERINTENDENT

973-340-5000, EXT. 2334
ASCIACCA@GBOE.ORG

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Dear Parents and Members of the Garfield School Community,

I am aware that there are many questions and concerns regarding the reopening of our schools. Please be advised that the end of remote learning and the opening of schools will be solely at the discretion of Governor Murphy. In his executive order released on March 16, 2020, the Governor closed schools for at least two weeks but warned us that we should expect the closure to be enforced for a much longer period. ***As of this date, there has been no word regarding the reopening of schools.*** The district, including administrators, supervisors, and teachers are responsible to plan remote instruction for students until notified otherwise by the Governor's office.

At this time of year our attention normally turns to the positive end of year events and celebrations, including proms, dances, moving-up ceremonies and graduation. The District remains committed to doing everything possible to hold these events, however, no event can be confirmed until we receive notification from the Governor's office that schools can reopen.

There will be no remote learning during the district's scheduled Spring break, April 10-17. Remote learning will resume on April 20, 2020. Let's take this time to recharge and allow ourselves and the students to rest and relax at home.

Given the continued threat of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) to our school communities and the resulting school closures, ***Governor Phil Murphy announced yesterday that the State of New Jersey is cancelling all statewide student assessments for the spring 2020 testing window.*** This includes the administration of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA), ACCESS for ELLs, and the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). Cancellation of statewide assessments will not prevent students from meeting their high school graduation assessment requirements. The high school administration and guidance counselors will provide all necessary information and support to ensure that our students remain on the pathway to graduation.

The Garfield Board of Education Election, scheduled for April 21, 2020, has been postponed until May 12, 2020. The election will be conducted by mail and residents will have until May 12th at 4:00 p.m. to mail in the ballot. Please be aware of the change and look for the ballot in your mailbox and don't forget to vote!

As we seek to identify the positives during this pandemic, we are proud of the remote learning efforts that are ongoing in Garfield Public Schools. Our educators have expanded their use of technology and are exploring creative and innovative ways to communicate and stay connected with the students while moving forward with the curriculum. Teachers are using the Teams platform, posting instructional videos, and using many new resources to keep our students motivated and engaged with meaningful instruction. Once again, I urge you to contact the

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principals, teachers, and counselors if your child is struggling and requires any additional resources and support. We are available and will do everything possible to address your concerns. ***You can refer to the Guidance Department page on the district website (located under the Departments tab) for a list of hot line numbers, resources, and email addresses of the district's counselors and social workers.*** The guidance department is available to communicate with our students and provide counseling as needed.

We are all concerned regarding the health and safety of students, staff, and families given the serious health risks posed by Covid-19. Many parents and staff members are understandably concerned when learning that there have been confirmed cases among staff and students in the Garfield District. Please be aware that Superintendents have been advised by the Department of Health to refrain from providing any information regarding presumptive and confirmed cases of Covid-19. ***It is the responsibility of the Bergen County Health Department to notify anyone who has been in contact with a student or staff member found to have tested positive for Covid-19.***

You are truly our partners in education, and we thank you for your efforts. It can be very difficult to restrict our students from socializing; however, it is extremely important to keep students from physically meeting in groups in order to slow the spread of the virus. It is essential for parents to establish a daily routine, which allows time for academics and time for participating in remote social activities that keep students connected to friends and feeling positive. Remember you can send in pictures of remote learning in your home so we can share them on our district and school websites.

In closing, please be reminded that it is extremely important to check the district website regularly for the most current and updated information regarding remote learning as well as the reopening of schools. Since our employees are working from home, please use email as the primary means of communication.

Take good care of yourselves and follow all guidelines and precautions to remain healthy while you protect and care for our students.

We are Garfield strong!

Kind Regards,

Anna Sciacca

Superintendent of Garfield Public Schools

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