

Wyckoff School District

March 9, 2020

Memo To: Wyckoff Families and Staff

From: Jeffrey Feifer, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools, Grace White, Assistant Superintendent

The purpose of this memo is to keep you updated as we continue to receive more information about the novel coronavirus and its impact upon our schools. Please review the following information and remember to check these links - [World Health Organization \(WHO\) COVID-19 FAQs](#), [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), and [New Jersey State Department of Health \(NJDOH\)](#).

Field Trips and Professional Development for Staff

After careful consideration of the risks and benefits of our planned school field trips and out-of-district staff development, and with an abundance of caution, we have canceled all field trips and out-of-district staff development workshops scheduled from today through April 30. Building principals will send out more details related to specific trips. A decision concerning the trips and staff development planned for May and June will be made at the beginning of April. We are also canceling the Grade 8 French Class trip to Quebec and Montreal. Field trips to other schools in the area or to locations in Wyckoff will take place as planned unless we get additional information that would contradict that decision.

Early Dismissal and Continuity of Instruction

Wyckoff School District will follow an Early Dismissal Schedule on Monday, March 16. This time will enable our staff to develop and refine our online plans to deliver and assess instruction in the event that schools are closed. Academic and Information Technology committees are working together to finalize our plans for K-8 instructional continuity. These plans will naturally vary by grade level and content area but will meet the requirements for a full day of school as determined by the State of New Jersey. Report cards will be available online March 27 instead of March 20 to allow staff the time to work on planning for school closings and preparation of report cards.

Stigma Related to Coronavirus

According to the CDC, *stigma and discrimination can occur when people associate an infectious disease, such as COVID-19, with a population or nationality, even though not everyone in that population or from that region is especially at risk for the disease. In this climate, fear and anxiety surrounding COVID-19 can lead to stigma toward Chinese, other Asian Americans, and the Jewish Community. The NJDOE encourages all educators and members of the public to recommit to raising awareness of the deep educational and personal harm brought by stigma, bullying, and harassment in our schools, and to spreading factual public health information without fear or stigmatization.*