



WYCKOFF SCHOOL DISTRICT

ONE COMMUNITY. ONE VISION. ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.

April 24, 2020

Dear Wyckoff Families

We hope that all is well with you and your family. Unfortunately, members of our educational community have been victimized by the pandemic. We extend our condolences and prayers to families of our students and to staff members who have lost a loved one.

What we have once enjoyed we can never lose,
All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.”
Helen Keller

On a positive note, our next Superintendent, as of July 1, Dr. Kerry Postma, has begun the process of orientation to the district. She has attended virtual meetings with the Administrative Team, Board of Education Committees, Education Association Leadership, PTO Coordinating Council, and the Education Foundation Executive Committee. Also, we had a virtual “Open House” for staff to join the online meeting and meet Dr. Postma. She will attend many future meetings so that her transition to Wyckoff will be as seamless as possible.

We commend and thank our staff for all their efforts on behalf of our students. Everyone has been working so hard under challenging conditions to provide online instruction and to keep our district operating as thoroughly and efficiently as possible. This past week, we have noted countless examples of innovative teaching practices and meaningful communication with families. We recognize that as time away from the classroom increases, all students will continue to need these personal connections. Children love to see their teachers and friends. We will be increasing web-conferencing that enables students to see and interact with each other and with their teachers.

Here are some updates concerning school operations:

- We are looking at student assessment and reporting during this virtual instruction learning period. While we have no guidelines from the Department of Education, instructional coaches and principals are working directly with teachers to maintain the integrity of Grade 2-5 Standards-Based Report Cards. At Eisenhower, Mr. Iasiello and his staff have been developing their plan for an authentic assessment system. More details to follow. Times and methods for Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Conferences are being planned with input from kindergarten teachers and instructional coaches.

- The Summer Academies will run this July. If schools remain closed, plans are underway to create a virtual program that will include enrichment and academic offerings.
- All end-of-year activities such as grade 8 promotion, grade 5 recognition, the transition from elementary to middle school and from middle to high school, and class and course assignments for 20-21 are being reviewed and will be provided according to the status of school opening and the availability of resources.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and support as we work in an ever-evolving educational environment. We will continue to share information as it emerges. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Feifer, Interim Superintendent
Grace White, Assistant Superintendent