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Grace White
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Memo to Families - May 4, 2020

Date: May 4, 2020

To: Wyckoff School District Families

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

Dear Families,

Governor Murphy has announced that schools will remain closed for the remainder of the school year. Please be assured that we have been engaged in a short-term, intermediate, and extended planning to finish this year as effectively as possible and to plan for the successful opening of the 20-21 school year. This planning includes, but is not limited to, continuity of instruction for general and special education, refining instructional practices, providing social-emotional support, grading and assessment modifications, kindergarten conferences, kindergarten orientation, grade 5 recognition activities, grade 8 promotion, transitions to middle school and high school, class placements, course assignments, summer academies and programs, and determining the programs, logistics, and practices for the reopening of schools. We have developed a system of communication that includes weekly updates from principals and a weekly update from Assistant Superintendent Grace White and myself. Specific details and information about our progress have been, and will continue to be, shared in these weekly communications.

We appreciate the feedback we have been receiving from parents/guardians and staff members. We know how difficult these times are and understand the social, emotional, financial, and psychological challenges that the pandemic has presented. We also know that the combined efforts of all of us – students, families, staff, community - working together is critical to success.

April/May are months during which districts throughout our country celebrate the contributions of various groups of staff members. We thank and recognize all the groups

referenced below, as well as our aides, maintenance staff, custodians, supervisors, directors, central office administrators, and information technology staff.

April 22 was *National Administrative Professionals Day*. We recognized the significance of the profession and acknowledged the importance and value of Administrative Professionals to our district. School, board office, and child study team assistants play vital roles, bear many responsibilities, and are crucial to the efficient functioning and smooth running of day-to-day operations. They assist teachers, administrators, support staff, students, parents, and community members. We appreciate their devotion and assistance and thank them for their invaluable support.

May 1 was *School Principals Day*. We celebrated and thanked our Principals and Assistant Principal for their leadership and dedication to providing the best education possible for our students. We are very fortunate to have six outstanding school leaders to guide their schools, to assist and support staff, to help students realize their potential, to create a safe and healthy school environment, and to assist and advise parents/guardians. Wyckoff has earned an outstanding reputation in Bergen County and throughout the State of New Jersey. The talents and abilities of Scott Blake, Rob Famularo, Chris Giordano, Chris Iasiello, Pat Lee, and Steve Raimo are significant factors in the success of the district.

May 5 is *National Teacher Appreciation Day*. We thank and commend our teachers for their commitment, dedication, and many positive contributions to the academic and social/emotional wellness of our students. These are probably the most challenging times for educators ever! They have gone above and beyond in meeting these challenges in a highly professional and positive manner. We recognize and appreciate their untiring efforts and actions in educating and guiding our children and in supporting parents and community members.

May 6 is designated as *National School Nurse Day*. Our School health professionals are responsible for tending to a complex array of medical and social issues. Their work, however, is not confined to the nurse's office. They also interact with other professionals such as teachers, doctors, child study teams, administrators, school counselors, coaches, parents, police officers, drug and substance abuse professionals, social workers, and other education support professionals. During this time of crisis, our nurses have provided us with critical information and support and have worked closely with parents and staff to help keep us healthy and safe. They are each invaluable to the operation of our schools, and we thank and commend them for their commitment and dedication.

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Jeff and Grace