



Howell Township Public Schools

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Dear Members of the Howell Township Community:

Earlier today, Governor Murphy announced that schools will remain in the remote learning environment through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. This is, undoubtedly, disappointing news for all of us; however, we know this is a necessary course of action for the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and the community as a whole.

Please take note that our [remote learning plan](#) can be of assistance to you as it has been continuously updated and revised to remain current. Having maintained a 'living plan' gives us confidence that we are best prepared to continue our remote learning environments through the rest of this school year. Recently, the remote learning plan was updated with our [Quality Feedback as Grading](#) document, which provides an overview of how students will receive grades, as well as the criteria to show mastery at each grading scale level (A, B, C, D...).

The school calendar will remain the same through the rest of this school year, with the last day for students as June 23rd. Now that the Governor has made this determination, we will continue to work on and formalize needed information regarding year-end procedures, such as removal of belongings, student celebrations, etc. At this point, we have not received information regarding the Extended School Year (ESY) classes or the start of school in the Fall of 2020. We are deep in the process of planning many contingency plans for the above-mentioned events. Until the State communicates which actions it deems permissible for those events, and others like them, we will not be able to share a plan. Please take some comfort in the fact that we are planning, and that safety is our primary concern. We will communicate with you as soon as we have decisions regarding these upcoming events.

Lastly, please know that we miss seeing your children in school everyday. We miss the bonds that form through time spent learning together. Teachers define themselves by their work. That work, and definition of self, is based on our interactions and relationships with students. Due to the amazing efforts of our staff, and the partnership that you have offered from within your homes, we have redefined the education experience and broadened the boundaries of the traditional classroom. The Governor's announcement coincides with the start of Teacher Appreciation Week. Please join me in celebrating our amazing teachers and educators as they do EVERYTHING within their power to preserve what matters most in teaching and learning - the relationships between teacher and learner! Thank you, teachers.

Please remain healthy and safe,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Isola".

Joseph Isola

Superintendent of Schools