



# Howell Township Public Schools

Joseph J. Isola  
jisola@howell.k12.nj.us

(732) 751-2480 ext. 3828  
FAX (732) 919-1060

March 31, 2020

Dear Howell School Community,

As we have begun our third week of remote learning, we find it an absolute necessity to thank our Howell Township Public Schools families, students and staff. Without your efforts, adaptability, and resilience, none of this would be possible. These days, now turned to weeks, are trying for the most patient of us. The consistently high level of communication, collaboration, and sharing of resources between different groups has truly made an untenable situation much more tolerable.

The primary mission of the school experience remains open. Even with the most current information available to us, predicting beyond the week at hand is nearly impossible. The decision to open or close school facilities is less and less in our hands. We are confident that together whatever decisions are made in the coming weeks, Howell Township Public Schools will be ready to adapt and meet our next challenges.

While our staff continue to work with students, support families, and provide resources to those most in need, the administrative teams and instructional coaches continue to adjust our Remote Learning Plans. While most of these revisions are for our staff, you can view updates to our plan and any other COVID-19 updates at our [COVID-19 Updates webpage](#). As the amazing efforts of our educators shift toward teaching new content within the various curricular areas, we would like you to be mindful of a few things:

- Teaching is a deeply personal act that is built on the relationships between a teacher and a student
- Learning, and therefore teaching, is highly contextual. What is said during the act of teaching and the process of learning is relevant to that moment. If heard in a different setting, those statements could be interpreted out of context and therefore misconstrued
- The remote classroom is still a learning environment. Since that classroom may be entering your living room, we all need to work together to protect the confidentiality and privacy of our students and staff.
- Based on the above, we are requesting that you do not record or take pictures of video conferences; and please do not “live stream” video conferences to personal/private social media accounts.

Assuming there are no changes from this point forward, our plans will cover us through Spring Break, which begins April 9. This next phase of our Remote Learning Plans, which would run from March 30 to April 9, will feature more interactive, assignment-based model leveraging a variety of different web-based and district owned digital tools. Now that we are well inside of our remote learning experiences, the lessons will more explicitly focus on keeping pace within our curriculum. Some curricula have been adapted to compensate for scope and pacing changes due to the pandemic needs.

All lessons will be cognizant of varying access needs, as well as - and as always - the varying learning needs of each student. We would like to remind you that during this remote learning period, we are operating under the policies that govern home instruction. Please see the guidelines below for expectations for the teaching and learning experience.

<b>Guidelines for Per WEEK Teaching (Teacher Experience AND Learning Student Experience) Hours</b>		
<b>Core Instructional Areas all Grades</b>		
<b>Mathematics</b>	Approximately 2 hours of teaching AND learning	
<b>ELA</b>	Approximately 2 hours of teaching AND learning	
<b>Social Studies Unit of Study</b> (if currently enrolled / teaching in this course)	Approximately 2 hours of teaching AND learning	
<b>Science Unit of Study</b> (if currently enrolled / teaching in this course)	Approximately 2 hours of teaching AND learning	
	<b>Middle School Special Areas (Based on Similarity of Traditional Schedules)</b>	<b>Elementary / Primary Special Area Schedules (Based on Similarity of Traditional Schedules)</b>
<b>World Languages</b> Approximately...	30-45 minutes of teaching AND learning	30 minutes of teaching AND learning
<b>Art</b> Approximately...	30-45 minutes of teaching AND learning	30 minutes of teaching AND learning
<b>Music</b> Approximately...	30-45 minutes of teaching AND learning	30 minutes of teaching AND learning
<b>Media</b> Approximately...	30-45 minutes of teaching AND learning	30 minutes of teaching AND learning
<b>Technology</b> Approximately...	30-45 minutes of teaching AND learning	
<b>Computers</b> Approximately...	30-45 minutes of teaching AND learning	30 minutes of teaching AND learning
<b>Band</b>	30-45 minutes of teaching AND learning	Band will take place based on personalized experience utilizing guidelines above.
<b>Health &amp; PE</b> Approximately...	20 minutes <i>daily</i> of teaching AND learning	20 minutes <i>daily</i> of teaching AND learning

In following the above guidelines, we will be able to provide needed variety to the learning experiences and play a vital role in keeping your children engaged with their learning while they are at home.

We will continue to communicate with you about our Remote Learning Plans and other supports we can offer you.

Be Well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Isola". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'I'.

Joseph Isola  
Superintendent of Schools