



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Jason Schimpf
School Business Administrator

March 31, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Now that we have started our third week of the Virtual Learning Program, and this week's Virtual Spirit Week, I wanted to share a number of critical updates with our parents, guardians and students so that we are all prepared for the days and weeks ahead. This update also serves as a moment to stress the importance of continuing our social distancing practices, especially among our students, as our best strategy in flattening the proverbial curve.

I wish each of you continued success while we navigate these unprecedented times and hope that this update serves you well as we continue to work hard at providing our students with the very best program possible. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at your convenience.

On a positive and uplifting note, check out Channel 6abc Philadelphia's coverage of our High School Varsity Softball Team who, despite social distancing practices, continues to play together by clicking [HERE](#).

COVID-19 Update & School Closing

- Governor Murphy updated the State on Monday (3/30) that the number of confirmed cases in NJ has climbed to 16,636 and 198 of our fellow residents have lost their lives. We keep our neighbors and fellow residents in our thoughts and prayers during this crisis and continue to stress the importance of practicing social distancing.
- President Trump has declared New Jersey a major disaster area, making federal resources available to our State. Moreover, President Trump has extended social distancing practices through April 30th.
- Governor Murphy emphasized on Thursday (3/26) that the decision to reopen schools rests solely with him and that he is not prepared to consider the option of reopening until April 17th.
- **Spring Recess.** Please be advised that spring recess will continue, as scheduled. Observe the [2019-20 School Calendar](#) as originally approved. Faculty have been directed not to post or assign work to students over spring recess as I believe it is in all of our interests to take a reprieve from the demands of our new virtual environment.

Home of the Dragons

Resources, Supports and Help for our students, families and neighbors

- **District Resources:** Please go to our District's Website at [COVID-19 Updates](#) to stay current on critical COVID-19 Resources, expectations and professional development resources regarding our [Virtual Learning Program](#), and Superintendent's Updates.
- **Help is a phone call away.** The current situation, unrelenting media coverage, and stay-at-home orders, in addition to balancing the demands of work-from-home responsibilities and caring for our own families, is stressful. It is important that our faculty and staff know that there are resources available to help those who are in need. Below are some local resources for you to utilize if/when in need or click the link provided [HERE](#).
 - If you are feeling overwhelmed about COVID-19, you are not alone and can call the NJ WARM Line at (877) 294-4357.
 - If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19 and resources, call 2-1-1 or text "NJCOVID" to 898-211.
- **Child Care Resource & Referral Agency.** This week Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 110, providing childcare resources to those deemed Essential Personnel. If you or someone you know is in need of childcare and qualify pursuant to the Governor's Order, click on the link below for more information [COVID-19 Essential Personnel & Child Care](#).
- **Employee Rights & Paid Sick Leave.** The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. To learn more, click on the [FFCRA Informational Poster](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- **Mood Survey & Counselor Engagement.** Our Middle and High School Counselors want to know how each student is feeling and coping in the current environment. Therefore, every student is being asked to complete a survey which has been emailed to them by their counselor. School counselor contact information can be found [here](#).
- **Working Papers.** As students reach milestone birthdays and position themselves for employment, the need to acquire "working papers" becomes increasingly important. Please use the link below to print the certificate form. Students should ask the prospective employer if the employer will accept an electronic signature or a PDF confirming age and ability to work. All inquiries can be sent to Mr. Schiff at schiffm@krsd.org, and we will work hard to accommodate each request. https://www.nj.gov/labor/wagehour/content/childlabor_empcert.html

Field & Class Trips & Other Events

- **Field Trips & Programs.** All scheduled field trips, such as the music trip to Hershey, Renaissance trip, STEM Fair, Memorial Day Program, etc., have all been canceled.
- **Programs, Assemblies and Graduation:** As of this moment, events such as Prom, the Senior Awards Banquet and Graduation remain unchanged. However, we are considering all options at



Commitment to Excellence

this time in an effort to ensure that we recognize and honor our students, especially our seniors, at the close of the school year.

- **Senior Trip.** The Senior Trip to Disney has been rescheduled, tentatively, for June 6-10. However, we will continue to monitor the current situation and make a decision regarding the feasibility of this trip when appropriate. Stay tuned for more information.
- **Middle School & Foreign Language Trips.** The 7th Grade and 8th Grade Class Trips, as of this moment, remain unchanged. We have reached out to the vendors for confirmation. Foreign Language Trips to Costa Rica and France, as of this moment, remain unchanged. Again, we will monitor and adjust accordingly.

Virtual Learning Program – Version 2.0

- **Kingsway launches Virtual Learning Program, v.2.0.** We are proud of how quickly we developed and deployed our virtual learning program and equally proud of the work of our faculty to deliver remote learning in creative and exciting ways. However, this virtual program is not without challenges and, as long as our current status remains unchanged, we will continue to troubleshoot and improve our virtual program to meet the needs of faculty and students. Therefore, please be advised that we are clarifying some expectations and updating a few areas in what is now referred to as [Kingsway's Virtual Learning Program 2.0](#). More detailed information can be found on our website.
 - **Middle School Marking Period 3, High School Mid-Semester 2 timelines extended.** To give our faculty time to fairly assess our students and administration to review equity and fairness of assessments in our virtual environment, we will eliminate middle school marking period 3 and extend high school mid-semester two in favor of aligning our middle and high school's academic terms.
 - **Assessments & Grade Weighting Under Review.** Administration is presently reviewing grade weighting policies in an effort to ensure that students are being assessed fairly and equitably. We recognize that there is a considerable digital divide among our students and all of our students have been thrust into a new world where they are expected to self-manage their own learning. We are asking a lot of our students and we want to be sure that students are assessed fairly. More to come on this topic.
 - **Assignment Posting Time:** Teachers are directed to post all assignments by 8:00 a.m. each morning, Monday to Friday. Any assignment posted, must be added to PowerSchool to assist parents whom wish to monitor work assigned to their children.
 - **Assignment Due Dates:** While contingent largely on the work assigned, we expect teachers to be flexible and apply generous time lines with regard to due dates.
 - **Instructional Expectations:** Teachers have been encouraged to utilize Google Meet to provide as much direct instruction as possible. Students are not required to participate in live sessions but will have access to sessions when recorded and uploaded into Google Classroom.



Commitment to Excellence

- **Student Protocol & Procedures for Live Virtual Meetings.** As we move toward utilizing more synchronous learning, student protocol and etiquette will increasingly become important. Please be advised of this protocol as outlined [HERE](#).
- **Contact & Communication:** Teachers, school counselors and special education case managers are reminded that they are to be available during the standard school day (7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.) through email. It is expected that emails are returned as soon as possible but no later than 24-hours after receipt. Virtual meetings and phone calls are encouraged if practicable.
- **Google Classrooms:** Teacher and school counselors are available via their Google Classrooms anytime during the regular school day (7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
- **Office Hours:** Teachers, school counselors, and special education case managers shall be available for immediate support during the designated office hours as originally established.

Again, thank you for your attention to this update and for the work you do for our students. Your work continues to be appreciated and our students remain the ultimate benefactor of your dedication. As a reminder, you can continue to monitor updates on our website by clicking the link [HERE](#). Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Very truly yours,



Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

[Please Support Our Local Restaurants, Eateries and Businesses](#)



Commitment to Excellence