

## ALPHA PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Alpha, New Jersey 08865

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Mr. Seth Cohen, Chief School Administrator

Good afternoon;

As the State of New Jersey continues their response to COVID-19, we are required to take some action and make adjustments. I normally loathe long letters from central office, but I ask that you read through all parts of this communication. I will again reiterate that we are guided by what the experts and those in authority tell us and how they direct us. We have avoided knee-jerk and panicked responses and I appreciate the whole community supporting that approach.

### Take Home Packets:

Today, your child(ren) has received a packet of take home work in case the Health Department, State or CDC advises quarantine for our district. The work should not be done all at once, but spread over the days we are closed. Teachers will be responding to emails if you have questions. Ultimately we will work out any issues upon student's return to school. The goal here is to do the best we can in an extraordinary circumstance. These packets will also be available for download from the district's website. Special Education students may have their packets modified depending on the individual need. Students who receive related services will have work in the packets and will provide additional services if necessary when the student returns to school. All students who were absent today had their packets delivered to their door.

### What Quarantine Could Look Like for Alpha:

We only close the building if directed by the Health Department, CDC or State. The Health Department reports that quarantine (building closure) happens from a variety of reasons; infection in the community, infection in the school or infection in the surrounding area. The Health Department could close the district for 24-72 hours to assess the situation and then re-open the building or continue quarantine. Regardless, it is important that we remember that it is not the building that is infected. COVID-19 spreads from person-to-person. Quarantine limits people's contact.

### Changes for Alpha this Spring:

*Field Trips:* On the Health Department's recommendation, we are canceling all field trips for the remainder of the year. We are attempting to recover as much money as possible from our deposits and payments. We cannot refund money paid through fundraising but we can use that money for other in-school events. It is our goal to create an in school special event for every grade level that has had a trip cancelled.

*Parent/Grandparent Day/Eagle Escapades:* Unfortunately these events need to be cancelled as they will most likely exceed the number of people recommended to gather and there is no way of knowing who has had contact with whom.

*Concerts/Plays/Field Day/Dances:* As of now, these events can run as scheduled. This is subject to change as the situation is evolving.

*Free and reduced Lunch:* A bagged breakfast and lunch will be available for students who receive free and reduced lunch. Bags will be available between 8:30-9:00, at the back of the building in front of exit #8. All exit doors have numbers above them.

*Graduation/School Calendar/Last Day of School:* If we are closed by the CDC, State or Health Department and students work on their packets as assigned, our days will count and none will be added to the Calendar. In early April we will update the Calendar to reflect the unused snow dates and to firm up the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation date.

*Board Meetings:* The Board of Education will meet as scheduled. If there is any change there will be a separate communication through regular channels.

*IEP Meetings -* The New Jersey Office of Special Education Programs – (OSEP) has yet to offer guidance to school districts as to how to handle IEP meetings during this school closure. Until we receive guidance, we will not be conducting on-site IEP meetings. We need all IEP members to be present and participating in order to develop a meaningful Individualized Education Plan for your child. We will schedule IEP meetings in a timely fashion and to the best of our ability once school resumes. If we receive any new information from OSEP, we will update parents immediately. Please feel free to reach out to your case manager regarding any additional questions.

We are all trying to do the best we can in an extraordinary situation. I will again counsel calm, cleanliness and communication. We can only deal with events as they unfold and we do our best to take care of our entire school community.

All the best;

Seth Cohen  
CSA  
Alpha