

March 16, 2020

Voorhees Township Parent/Guardian:

Prior to sharing today's update, I would like to thank our entire community for their support, patience, understanding, and input throughout this most difficult time. Navigating the various challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic has forced education to do something it has never done before. Under strict time constraints we needed to package and attempt to replicate the complexities of all that happens in a school day into a 'take home bag'. Every challenge that presents itself also yields new opportunities to try new methods of learning. I know it should not surprise me, but I am amazed with some of the most creative ideas that our staff have decided to use. These are difficult and even scary times, but we have the best students, staff, and parents around so I am confident we will hear about countless examples of successful learning experiences.

What you can count on:

- **Communication:** The district is committed to sending out regular updates in order to keep our families informed. Your child's individual school will also send regular information more specific to their building. Your child's teacher is your direct line for any specific questions or concerns.
- **Daily Instruction:** Teachers will post daily assignments/lessons by 9am each morning. They will then be available Monday through Friday between the hours of 9am- 2pm to support the students and respond to questions electronically. Your child's teacher will communicate what method they plan to use for lessons. Example: Google Classroom, Zoom etc...
- **Student Attendance:** Attendance will be recorded daily by the homeroom teacher. The method our teachers will use to verify student attendance will be based on an electronic interaction. The students will have until 2 pm to make contact with their homeroom teacher in order to be marked present. If your child will be unable to make contact, please communicate that to the teacher in advance.
- **Technology:** Any student requiring technology support should inform the homeroom teacher. Depending on the issue, a technology specialist will be assigned to help resolve the issue. Please see the [Remote Learning Technology Support](#) page. In addition, there is a FAQ on website for general assistance <https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/Page/67191>
- **Device:** Any parent wishing to complete a loan agreement in order to borrow a device during the remote learning period should contact your child's building principal.
- **Special Education (IEP) meetings:** Your child's case manager will be available if you have specific concerns or need additional support. In general, scheduled meetings will continue to be held remotely.
- **Emotional Support & Mindfulness:** This may be a particularly worrisome time for some of our students. Our amazing guidance staff are here to support our children during this remote learning period if needed. Please communicate any concern or request for a counselor to contact you or your child through the classroom teacher,

directly to the voicemail of the counselor, or simply by contacting the building principal.

- **Food Service:** For all free/reduced meal students, bagged meals (breakfast, lunch) will be available daily at the Voorhees Middle School Theater lobby between 11am-noon.* Any family, not currently qualified for free/reduced meals, who need assistance should contact your child's principal. Thanks to the generosity of the community, there are resources available to support our families in need.
- **Support:** We are working to support the Camden County Health Department by being an overflow for meals for our senior citizens.
- **Kindergarten Registration for 2020-2021:** Postponed until we resume normal schedule
- **New Student Registration:** if anyone wishes to register a new student to our district please contact [856-655-8828](tel:856-655-8828) from 9am-2pm Monday through Friday to set up an appointment.

Schedule During Remote Learning:

- Each school building will be open on a limited basis on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-2pm. Monday through Friday, each building principal can be contacted at the number associated with each school.
- The Central Administrative building will remain open Monday through Friday 9am- 4pm by rotating small teams. We are reducing the number of employees reporting each day in support of the recommendation to follow the 'social distance precaution' but we are here to support you. If you contact your child's building principal or central administration representative, we can make appointments or plans to address your needs.

Important Phone Numbers: *Remote Learning Hotlines

- **Central Administration:** [856-655-8828](tel:856-655-8828)
- **Edward T. Hamilton:** [856-655-2697](tel:856-655-2697)
- **Kresson:** [856-655-8211](tel:856-655-8211)
- **Osage:** [856-655-1322](tel:856-655-1322)
- **Signal Hill:** [856-655-3569](tel:856-655-3569)
- **Voorhees Middle School:** [856-655-1831](tel:856-655-1831)

***Monday through Friday you can contact your school main office designee on the above hotlines 9am- 4pm (or leave a voicemail that will be returned within 24 hours).**

For additional information please see the update [Remote Learning Plan](#).

On behalf of the entire Voorhees Township Family thank you for your continued support and partnership. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, principal or my office and we will work to support you.

Sincerely,

Dr. David N. Gentile, Superintendent of Schools