

SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
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Kristin P. O'Neil, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools

Christopher J. DeStratis
School Business Administrator

March 15, 2020

Dear SWSD Families,

SWSD would like to thank our community and all of our SWSD families for all of your support. Everyone is operating in these uncharted waters together (families, schools, and businesses). Information and guidance are changing at a very rapid pace, too. I assure you district staff are working around the clock during this very challenging time.

To quote a colleague, *“In the end, it will be impossible to know if we overreacted or did too much, but it will be quite apparent if we underreacted and did too little.”*

Late last evening the District chose to communicate with all families our decision to close as soon as possible so our families had as much time as possible to plan for any and all necessary arrangements for your child/children. Today the District followed up with a phone call and additional information. Your support, understanding, and patience during this time is greatly appreciated.

SWSD UPDATED INFORMATION:

Following Monday's In-Service, the District will officially close for a period of two weeks beginning Tuesday, March 17. Please plan for a two week closure period. Throughout this closure, the District will continue to monitor, evaluate and assess the current situation. SWSD will remain in communication with all of our families.

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| Monday, March 16th | In-Service Day for Staff; no students |
| Tuesday, March 17th | <i>SWSD Home Student Learning Plan Begins</i> District Buildings are closed except to essential staff |

At this time, **ALL** school buildings are closed effective Tuesday, March 17, and school related events are cancelled between March 16 and March 30.

WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW UNTIL TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Families will want to establish a work space for your child/children. You will want to have pencils, loose leaf paper, and other “traditional” school supplies handy. It would be wonderful if you could pick out an independent student interest book for your child/children to read or to read together as a family. Read alouds are a wonderful way to promote literacy.

The Swedesboro-Woolwich School District:

“A community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners.”

COMMUNICATION:

The District is posting all mass communication messages on our District Webpage under the tab [Health Update](#). Detailed information will be emailed and posted. Although we do send texts and phone calls with brief updates, please establish a home plan to receive the District's more detailed information. For example, you will want to be able to receive information from one of these sources: email, our District Health Tab, identify a SWSD family/community member as your "SWSD communication partner," review posts on: Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. If you are in need of assistance, please contact our Chief Information Officer, Mr. Joel Brown by calling the school or sending an email to jbrown@swsdk6.com.

PICKING UP PERSONAL BELONGINGS:

Students in need of gathering *personal* belongings may report to school on Monday, March 16th during regular school hours with a supervising adult. Students will be permitted to briefly retrieve their items. Only student "personal belongings" should be picked up at this time (jackets, lunch boxes, etc.). Student medications identified for school use will remain at the school at this time. If you are in need of it at this time, please email the main office staff of your child's school.

| SCHOOL | CONTACT | EMAIL |
|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Clifford School | Ms. Fromm | hfromm@swsdk6.com |
| Stratton School | Ms. Statile | dstatile@swsdk6.com |
| Harker School | Ms. Gahrs | jgahrs@swsdk6.com |
| Hill School | Ms. Costantini | bcostantini@swsdk6.com |

Families who are unable to report to school may send their child's classroom teacher or main office staff an email and request those items. Another day and time will be scheduled for pick up.

SCHOOL MATERIAL PICK-UP

During this two week closure period, access to all of our *SWSD Home Student Learning Studies* will be posted on our District Webpage. Access information will be shared with all families on Monday evening, March 16. *Home Student Learning* begins on Tuesday, March 17.

At this time, students will not need any additional school resources beyond typical home school supplies (loose leaf paper, pencils, and student interest independent reading books). All resources will be provided on the District website during the first two week closure period. In the event the closure extends beyond the first two weeks, the District will establish student resource pick-up days / times that are most convenient for our families.

CHROMEBOOKS:

In order to keep our District Operating Budget as low as possible, the District currently does not possess additional liability warranties for students to take their Chromebooks home. Our excellent filtering system, that protects our students, is maintained through our internal servers and district firewalls.

In the event the school closure extends beyond two weeks, the District will plan to make Chromebooks available for student release. Over the next two weeks, the District will be ensuring our devices have student protections if they must leave our school firewall and server system. (A survey containing specific information will be provided at a later date.)

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HARD COPIES OF STUDENT LEARNING MATERIALS:

The District will establish two pick-up windows on Tuesday, March 17. Families who anticipate having printing challenges may wish to pick up a hard copy. In order to plan for the needed number of copies, please complete this form: [Student Learning Hard Copy Materials](#).

SURVEY

If you are in need of picking up hard copies of student learning materials, you may report to the Harker School between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Harker School | Tues., March 17 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |
| Harker School | Tues., March 17 | 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. |

Families who are in need of hard copies but are unable to pick-up needed hard copies during one of these two windows of time are asked to email their building main office staff. The District will mail you hard copies of the student learning materials.

| SCHOOL | CONTACT | EMAIL |
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| Clifford School | Ms. Fromm | hfromm@swsdk6.com |
| Stratton School | Ms. Statile | dstatile@swsdk6.com |
| Harker School | Ms. Gahrs | jgahrs@swsdk6.com |
| Hill School | Ms. Costantini | bcostantini@swsdk6.com |

LUNCHES:

Students who receive free or reduced lunch will continue to receive lunch during the school closure period. Families may pick-up student lunches at the Walter Hill School (bus lane location) each day between the hours of 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. For families who receive free or reduced lunches and are unable to pick-up your children’s lunches between 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., please contact your building main office by the end of the day on Monday, March 16.

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| Clifford School | Ms. Fromm | hfromm@swsdk6.com |
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Again, SWSD would like to thank all of our families for their unyielding support. Please keep in mind the schools are closed in an effort to encourage and support social distancing. Social distancing is a term applied to certain actions taken to stop or slow down the spread of a highly contagious disease. While all families will make decisions in the best interest of their own personal needs, the District does encourage everyone to do their best to support social distancing efforts in whatever ways are practical for your family at this time.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kristin P. O'Neil
SWSD Superintendent

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