

Distance Learning Daily Update

Friday - May 15, 2020

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Dr. Bertolini's Daily Message



To All Members of the Leonia School Community,

Today, I received an important email from the Bergen County Superintendent. I am sharing it with you to allow you to understand our situation concerning our high school graduation ceremony. Over the years, we have provided our senior enjoyable and memorable end-of-the-year events - Senior Week, The Prom, Dorney Park, PreProm, and Graduation. There is no one more willing than Mr. Kalender, Mr. Sernatinger and myself to make our sendoff for the Class of 2020 as enjoyable as previous years. However, we are restricted by guidelines set by both the Governor's executive orders and the NJDOE. We have not announced any specific plans for the 12th grade graduation due to our desires to change plans if we are permitted. The letter explains how we must remain in a holding pattern until we receive further guidance.

May 15, 2020

Dear Bergen Superintendents,

I have attended numerous virtual conferences with the New Jersey Department of Education related to what graduation ceremonies may look like for the Class of 2020. As we all know, the guidance has changed several times as circumstances related to the COVID-19 crisis have evolved. The DOE continues to work diligently to get clarification that can be shared with you as you plan ceremonies for your students and communities.

Many Bergen Superintendents have contacted me about this difficult matter and the disruption it has caused in many communities. While we await clarification, I strongly encourage all discussion and planning of graduation ceremonies to be temporarily tabled. Only by working with definitive guidance can a district make rational decisions related to the health, safety and wellness of their communities.

I will forward any/all guidance provided by the NJ DOE as soon as it becomes available.

Lou DeLisio

Interim Executive County Superintendent

Our desires are quite simple: We will plan the most enjoyable, inclusive graduation ceremony on or prior to June 18th that the state and the NJDOE permits. If you have any questions, please contact me edward.bertolini@leoniaschools.org or Mr. Kalender Or Charles.Kaledner@leoniaschools.org

Stay Safe! Stay Healthy! Stay Home!

Ed Bertolini

Thursday, June 18th

You may recall that we had a very mild winter with little snow accumulation. As a result the last day for school will be moved up Thursday, June 18th.

Plans are being developed by the three schools for students , following state guidelines, to clean out their lockers and return textbooks. Information, once finalized, will be sent out in the Daily Update, Reminds and Eblasts.

In my daily message earlier in the week, the graduation times have been set. Yesterday state officials met to set specific guidelines for graduation ceremonies. This information will be posted in the daily update whenever I receive it from the NJDOE and OEM.

ACS Update - Dr. Martinez

Family Fun Field Day at home

On Monday, the ACS PE Google Classroom will provide a resource for families to use if they'd like to run their own Family Fun Field Day at home. This event is optional. There will be 10 fun activities including:

1. Cup Knock Challenge

2. Egg Spoon Race
3. Paper Ball Basketball
4. Dance Party!
5. 3 Legged Race
6. Create a Tower
7. Water Bottle Bowling
8. Trash Bag Race
9. Dizzy Bat Race
10. Broomstick Limbo

We included a list of items that will be helpful to have on hand for preparing to run a Family Fun Day:

1. 6 or 10 paper cups
2. 10 paper balls or rolled up socks
3. 1 spoon per player (can use larger cooking spoons if needed for younger students)
4. 1 egg or small item that can fit in a spoon per player
5. Start and finish line markers for races (like twigs or cones)
6. A laundry basket, bucket or small clean waste basket to shoot in
7. Music or the Youtube videos provided
8. A long cloth or belt
9. Items to make a tower (legos, paper cups, playing cards are some ideas)
10. 6-10 Empty water bottles or cups
11. One large sack, pillow case or trash bag per person
12. A bat, stick, pole or broom

Most of the items can be found around the house. If you can't find an item, be creative and find something else you can use. Want to add a new station or take one out... go head, this is your special day! More detailed instructions will be provided in Monday's PE post.

We hope you have fun!

Stay at Home Wellness Activities

Ms. Almeida has also fun stay at home wellness activities:

from biglifejournal.com

https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/stay-at-home-printable-pack-families?utm_campaign=Feedback%20to%20Child%20Newsletter%20%28SSLx9X%29&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Big%20Life%20Journal%20Printables%20%26%20Resources&_ke=eyJrbF9lbWFpbCI6ICJqYWVNdWVsaW5lMfbWVpZGFAbGVvbmlhc2Nob29scy5vcnciLCAia2xfY29tcGFueV9pZCI6ICJNTVNhYmYifQ%3D%3D

LMS Update - Mr. Saco

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

- ★ Giada Guzzardi - Happy 13th Birthday!
- ★ Hillary Colon - Happy 13th Birthday!

Today's LMS Affirmations:

- ❖ I BELIEVE IN MYSELF.
- ❖ I AM PROUD OF MYSELF.
- ❖ I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Quote of the Day: *"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."* -
Martin Luther King Jr.

LHS Update - Mr. Kalender

Mr. S's Thursday Show

Yesterday was the 6th time that Mr. Sernatinger has met with teachers via the weekly Call In Show. The special guest yesterday was Mr. Cullen. Mr. Cullen has over 50 years as an educator and his answers to the questions that were asked of him were educational and inspiring. The Call In Show has been a great way for teachers to get together during Distance Learning and will continue next week.

Cap & Gown

Our virtual graduation will still require all seniors to wear their cap and gown for filming that will be included in the virtual graduation ceremony. We expect to receive the caps and gowns over the next couple of weeks. Once we have them we will make arrangements to get the caps and gowns to all seniors. Prior to giving seniors their caps and gowns all seniors must pay the \$25 fee for the cap and gown. This year we have made arrangements with Jostens so that families can pay using a credit/debit card on Jostens website. Please click on the following link to pay for your cap and gown. [LEONIA SENIORS](#)

Virtual Yearbook Signings

Last week in the update we announced that students would be able to sign yearbooks virtually through a new platform Josten's was creating. They have released the video below with additional information on virtual yearbook signing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXf5LCcbHAc&authuser=0>

Special Services Update - Mr. Servis

Yesterday's Zoom meeting regarding our students and children's mental health went very well. We had about 15 parents attend, in addition to Ms. Stein, the Director of Special Services from Cliffside Park, and at least one high school staff member. I have included the link to those slides here: [Mental Health in age of Covid-19](#). I received a few requests to host another meeting in the future, but after 6pm so working parents can attend too. I will schedule a date next week and include it in the updates.

In all three schools, teachers are accepting late work from students, so if your child is behind in their work and feels helpless, let them know that they still have time to work on assignments and hand them in for credit. Please contact their case manager as soon as possible to come up with a plan on how they can make up missed assignments.

Lastly, we are still awaiting guidance from the State regarding summer school and the Extended School Year. I am preparing for all scenarios and when we receive the guidance, I will let everyone know how we will proceed. Either way, ESY will take place, either in person or virtually.

Enjoy the beautiful weather this weekend!

Athletic Department Update - Mr. Perrotta

Friday Night Lights! #BeTheLight National Initiative

Leonia High School will once again participate in the #BeTheLight national initiative this Friday night (5/15/20). The lights will be turned on at Veteran's Field in Edgewater and Sylvan Park in Leonia at 8:20 and stay lit for 20 minutes to honor Leonia's senior class and senior athletes.

A special thanks goes out to both boroughs for agreeing to light up the fields so the Class of 2020 can be recognized. Please do not attempt to go to either field to view the lighting. Both facilities are closed to the public and the parking lots are barricaded. Pictures will be posted on multiple platforms.

Instructional Supervisors Update

Social Studies - Mr. Cullen

This week our focus returns to the middle school. Despite the obstacles, creativity remains the watchword as the teachers introduce new strategies to keep students involved and learning.

Grade 6 is working on the Roman Republic. In addition to the traditional lesson plans, Ms. Frank has her youngsters engaged in activities such as reading exercises, scavenger hunts, and map skill exercises. Mr. Gugick is following suit. He has modified the annual 'Greek Day' to run in a virtual setting, all the while producing a variety of visual resources to augment his already ample supply of digital materials.

The youngsters have been watching YouTube channel 'Geography Now.' This summarizes the political and physical geography, demographics, and relations with other countries ("Friendzone"). In an interesting development, one of the students provided background on LMS, earning their class a shout out as well. To view, see the 9:54 mark of this video.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-5OwIDPIA>)

Mrs. Albanese-Reiner's seventh grade students are creating Civil War battlefield reports. Using both Google and Screencastify, they first did the research and now begin writing scripts for their presentations. To help ease the sense of isolation, she has allowed them to expand their contacts and work with friends in her other sections.

Mr. Bradler's Civics class is exploring a timely issue, that being the powers of the Executive. Students recently played the interactive game of "Executive Command" where each promoted an agenda in the face of changing domestic and foreign events. The experience helped illustrate the need for both an electoral mandate and need to work across the aisle in order to achieve an objective.

(<http://www.icivics.org/games/executive-command>)

In the grade eight, Mr. Muench is expanding his command of technology, producing different lessons for his on-line classes. Platforms include: EdPuzzle, SHEG, PearDeck, Screencastify, and Loom. As with everyone, he recognizes the need to develop different activities and is meeting the challenge with enthusiasm.

Mr. Kassin's students completed a propaganda poster project for the exploration unit, focusing on historical situation, intended audience, and point of view. The youngsters were then asked to include a rationale explaining their poster. Finally, students completed a survey to assess both progress and understanding.

The department is striving to meet the needs of every family, providing a quality education under adverse circumstances. Teachers have made it a point to monitor the students' emotional health. Most agree that things have been status quo since the Spring Break. Still, some are having difficulty keeping up. In those cases, the staff is working with administrators to reach out to the youngsters individually.

Language Arts/English - Ms. Cicarelli

As the warm weather of spring has finally arrived, ELA classes on many grade levels are exploring poetry and writing their own verses praising nature and the like. I shared these lines from William Blake's "Spring" with my juniors and seniors:

Sound the flute!
Now it's mute!
Bird's delight,

Day and night,
Nightingale,
In the dale,
Lark in sky,—
Merrily,
Merrily merrily, to welcome in the year...

On Wednesday, seventeen seniors sat for the Advanced Placement Exam for English Literature and Composition Exam. Ms. Millar, by way of a lillote, reports that her students were not disappointed in their efforts on the exam.

Fifty students will sit for the AP English Language and Composition Exam next Wednesday at 2:00 PM EST. At LHS, students used screen sharing on Google Meets to present their understanding of the rhetorical situation as well as their own ideas about strong examples of rhetoric. At LMS, the eighth-grade classes continue to interact with *To Kill A Mockingbird* across multiple media platforms. Students can choose to follow along on their PDFs as they listen to an audiobook or access other read-alouds on YouTube.

Science - Ms. O'Hagan

We are well into AP testing! This week's test included Physics I and II, Chemistry. On Monday, Biology and Environmental Science students will take their exams.

In 6th grade Environmental Technology, students completed an upcycling project. They found materials that were old, broken, or recycled and made new usable items. After the projects were completed, students made Flipgrids to present their projects. The students were very creative. Projects included items such as a dog treat dispenser, a mouse bungee, tote bags, piggy banks, bird feeders and desk organizers.

Robotics students have been working on an electrical circuit activity using Tinkercad, a free, online 3D modeling program.

Students in the junior cohort of the Leonia Academy of Science have been communicating with our advocate, Ms. Smyth, to prepare for next year's externships. Students should continue to reach out to Ms. Smyth with any comments and questions.

World Languages/ELL - Ms. Despaigne

We are back with a new week learning language through technology. Our teachers are very busy in their classrooms, creating new activities not only teaching language, but also teaching culture.

ACS English Language Learners are having story time through Zoom. With screen sharing, students are increasing their vocabulary in the target language, while using illustrations and photographs to enhance comprehension.

Also, LMS students Spanish students in 6th grade created cultural projects revolving around the history and misconceptions of Cinco de Mayo. Students researched the historical background of this very popular holiday, along with traditional foods, and costumes.

At, LHS Ms. Chen's Chinese class, have been Zoom to present online projects to each other in class. She states that the students are really enjoying using the digital format, and have even stayed around to discuss Chinese language and culture related topics even after the class has ended. The digital format has provided a place for students to feel that social emotional connection they would have felt being in the school building. Ms. Chen says "I thank my students for being so mature, and understanding and cooperative." Finally, qualifying Spanish students in Ms. Cardenas, Ms. Farfan, and Ramos are in process of taking the National Spanish Exam remotely from home. We wish them well!

Mathematics - Mr. Lee

Congratulations to the AB & BC Calculus students for completing their exams this week. We are all proud of the way you've fought through the unique challenges this year has brought to prepare your exam. Next week our AP Computer Science A and AP Statistics students will be taking their exams. We wish them good luck!

Highlight of the week is our 8th grade teacher, Ms. Sin. Ms. Sin has integrated technology into both her Math 8 and Algebra 8 courses. While using Google Classroom to share her Google Doc notes, Ms. Sin also conducts Google Meet sessions to help our students. Utilizing Desmos activities, Ms. Sin keeps students interacting with one another and exploring concepts during class. Along with Desmos, Ms. Sin uses Quizzez as well as Buzzmath to help students practice and monitor progress of essential skills.

On a fun note: Happy National Chocolate Chip Day!

Physical Education/Health - Mr. Perrotta

The Physical Education teachers continue to utilize multiple platforms when communicating with their students during distant learning. These platforms include Google classroom, teacher websites, teacher-made videos, You Tube videos and packets. The teachers are also using Zoom and Google Hangout/Meet so they could connect with the students on a more personal level. The workout regimens and activities are constantly updated and remain fresh, the students continue to be challenged while having fun in the safety of their own homes. Attendance and interest level remain high. From the Physical Education family to yours, please continue to be safe, stay fit and be well.

My daughter Emma selected this week's video. Click on the link below to watch ACS Physical Education teacher Mr. Morales with special guest King (his dog). How many push-ups can you do?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=75&v=tOUtbWSAycg&feature=emb_title

*******Previous information**

Previous information from earlier updates can be found on the district's website front page. Click on COVID-19 and then choose a date to see that day's daily update.