

Status Update - Coronavirus - 3-18-2020

To All Members of the Leonia School Community,

Our Distance Learning format continues into our third day. Our teachers continue to put in a yeoman effort to provide our students daily innovative instruction.

Our maintenance staff, administrative team, and other staff members from the three buildings and the central office continue to perform admirably.

The entire community is working together in a positive manner to make this work. Our school district is open - even though it is remotely. Let us continue to be a united team!

Below are two of the many notes we have received from parents and students. It uplifts our spirits to hear our parents and students have benefitted from our efforts. It puts a smile on our weary faces.

NOTE # 1

Dear Mr. Kalender and Mr. Saco,

I have one child in LMS and one in LHS. I would like to thank you and all of the teachers and staff for all that you did / do during this crisis. We are very impressed with how well prepared and organized the schools are in preparing all teachers and students for online learning, preparing meals and loaner computers to those students in need.

Our two children are doing good and very disciplined in doing their class work at home without a glitch.

Thank you very much for all your and the staff's hard work in getting us through this crisis.

Stay safe and healthy.

Regards,

A parent

NOTE # 2

Dear Dr. Martinez.

I am genuinely in awe of how quickly and effectively ACS developed a remote learning program. It is detailed and comprehensive.

This renews my appreciation for the hard work our teachers do each and every day.

Stay safe.

An ACS parent

Food Distribution

We will continue to distribute lunches and breakfasts for students in our lunch program from 11:00-12:00 noon at two pickup locations.

- Leonia residents can pick up at Leonia Middle School.
- Edgewater residents can pick up at Eleanor Van Gelder School.
- Breakfast and lunches have also been delivered to homes when families cannot get to LMS or EVG.
- ******* We are in the process of eliminating pickups at the two schools and instead deliver the meals to each home that is part of the Meal Program.**

To date, the lunch delivery system has worked very well.

If you are part of the lunch program and have not yet confirmed that you will be picking up meals or need delivery to your homes either in Leonia or Edgewater, please email Mrs. Kubat at [Kubat @leoniaschools.org](mailto:Kubat@leoniaschools.org) call 201-302-5200 x1203 or Dr. Bertolini at bertolini@leoniaschools.org

Computer Distribution

As of today, we have lent out over 200 Chromebooks to students at ACS, LMS and LHS.

If your child needs a computer to be able to participate in distance learning, you may borrow a Chromebook from the Leonia School District. Please send an email to Dr.

Bertolini to request a Chromebook at bertolini@leoniaschools.org Chromebook distribution will take place at Leonia Middle School from 8:30-12:00 at the LMS Rotunda.

Special Education Information:

Below is a note for Wednesday 3-18-2020 from the Director of Special Services Mr. Servis:

Although this message is similar to yesterday, there is new information added:

Dear parents,

I hope everyone is well and coping as best as possible with our temporary new reality. In order to keep things as “normal” as possible for the next few weeks, the Leonia Child Study Team will begin to conduct IEP meetings starting on Wednesday, March 18th.

These will be Virtual Meetings via Google Hangouts. This is a web based platform or you can use your phone or tablet by downloading the free app. You will need working speakers and a microphone, but the camera is OPTIONAL. I have told my team the camera is optional for them as well. (It may be nice to see people during this period of social distancing).

You will receive a meeting notice via email with the date and time of the meeting. On the day of the meeting, about 5 minutes before it is set to start, you will receive an email from the case manager. There will be a link that will take you to the virtual meeting space. You must hit the “Join Meeting” or “Ask to Join” button on the right side of the screen. You will need a Gmail account to access the Google Hangouts. If you create one for the purpose of these meetings, please contact the case manager. The email with the link to the meeting from the case manager will also include a phone number, if you prefer to just call into the meeting.

Please be aware that evaluations cannot take place until we return to school. If your child was in the process of being evaluated, we will resume when we return to school and do our best to complete the testing as close to the deadline as possible. If the team holds an initial or reevaluation meeting, we will send you our decision on whether or not the team

recommends testing within 15 days of the meeting. If the decision is to evaluate, and you agree, we will begin testing when school resumes. Some parts of the evaluation, like the Social History, may be conducted over the phone.

If you need an interpreter for the meeting, please let the case manager know as soon as you get the meeting notice.

All evaluations that were conducted before the school closure will be finished shortly and you will receive the report via email. When we return to school, you will also receive a paper copy in the mail. All IEPs that were developed before school closing will also be sent to you via email soon.

This is obviously all new for most of you, please be patient and give the case manager and me plenty of feedback so we can make this a better process as we move forward.

If your child is having a mental health emergency, you can call 201-262-4357 (HELP).

Case managers have begun reaching out to students on their caseloads both via email and telephone. If you would like your child's case manager to reach out to them, please send them an email to set up a time to call or email.

If your child is having a mental health emergency, you can call 201-262-4357 (HELP).

For non-emergency situations, you can contact your child's case manager and/or the school psychologist or social worker on their cell phones using their Google Voice phone numbers:

ACS

Dominica Felici-Skal (Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant) 201-588-5384

Soobin Jeong (School Psychologist) 201-228-0736

Tara Timpone (Social Worker) 862-801-0871

LMS

Kristie Hardy (Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant) 201-582-2725

Rotem Dayan (School Psychologist) 347-470-7631

Shauna Salmon (Social Worker) 201-500-4539

LHS

Marlana LePera (Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant) 862-801-0924

Carlos Proano (School Psychologist) 862-414-3212

Lindsay Goldstein-Hawkes (Social Worker) 845-579-5584

Thank you and be well,

Anthony Servis

Individual School Update - Wednesday, March 18, 2020:

Anna C. Scott School

A note for Wednesday 3-18-2020 from Dr. Martinez:

Teachers continue to upload messages, and some videos daily. Teachers are consistently taking questions from students and parents and responding as soon as possible. Teachers and staff development coaches are planning virtual lessons and assignments together virtually.

Today Staff was sent the following message:

Based on parent feedback, students need the reassurance that the teachers are still around. I made the following video for everyone and uploaded to google classroom and it is also on the ACS main web page (thank you Uzma).

Please refer parents today to the ACS main page website where they can show students the long distance learning video. Please if you are able make one of your own so students can feel reassured.

On Google classroom you will find extensive resources which allow students to practice the skills they have learned. Please note there are a lot of good resources listed in google classroom

We received the following feedback from parents through the H&S:

“I would just like to thank the teachers and administrators for everything. We have had no issues with remote learning and xxxx is able to pretty much independently navigate everything via Google Classroom and his packet. Teachers have been responsive and very helpful.”

“Today was great! Teachers were very communicative and answered questions almost immediately. “

“Very grateful for our teachers to get all of this prepped and our kids ready to go. Keeping the staff and their families in my thoughts as we all face this uncertainty.”

Leonia Middle School

A note for Wednesday 3-18-2020 from Mr. Saco

LMS students and teachers are logged in and working hard in their “virtual classrooms.” Students are completing their work and submitting their assignments in Google Classroom. Teachers are “meeting” with their students in Google Hangout, and using that platform to explain assignments and teach content in real time. Teachers are also creating screencast videos as a way to model content for their students. Our student attendance is being tracked in each bell period by the classroom teacher, and that information is being shared with our main office staff and administrators. When we see that a student has not logged into their Google Classrooms during the day we are making outreach phone calls to make sure all is well. Our attendance in the first three days of Distance Learning has been very good.

Feedback from the LMS Parent Community:

One parent shared in person: *“Despite the circumstances, my boys are working hard and enjoying the learning experience. The teachers have been great. The work they are sharing has been great. (Teacher) has posted videos of herself teaching the math, and that’s been wonderful.”*

Leonia High School

A note for Wednesday 3-18-2020 from Mr. Kalender:

LHS teachers have really embraced distance learning, while trying to keep it as normal as possible for students. Teachers are using Google Hangouts and Zoom to video conferences with students. This has allowed students and teachers to see the work being produced by the students and conduct regular lessons. One math teacher has utilized Zoom including a virtual smartboard to allow students to demonstrate their work to the class. The staff is reporting that students are in good spirits and are active participants in the classroom. Students are posting questions and comments in the stream on Google Classroom, leading to thought provoking class discussions.

The LHS counselors are hard at work trying to clean up course requests. They have been emailing students and receiving override forms from students. In addition, they are contacting students and parents to talk about their progress in classes. Counselors continue to be available to assist students with the college process while we are on distance learning. Reminder: If any student needs an override form they should email their counselor. The counselor will send the form to be filled out by the student and parent. It can then be returned electronically to the counselor.

In a further step to keep the school day as normal as possible for students LHS has created a Google Classroom for students to serve detention hours. We do not want to penalize students for not having the ability to serve their detention hours, so we have created a Detention Classroom. Students will be able to join the classroom and sign-in to detention each afternoon at 3:15pm. Once they have signed into detention they will find an assignment posted in the classroom. Students will read the article and answer questions to earn their detention hours. Students must complete the assignment and turn it in prior to 3:45 to have the time count. Students that just sign into the classroom attendance sheet, but do not turn in the work will not receive credit for serving the detentions.

The Google Classroom Detention code is *ex3pwaw*.

Information from our Instructional Supervisors - Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Below is a note for 3-18-2020 from our Science Supervisor, Mrs. O'Hagan

The science teachers are using Google classroom to post assignments and to check in with their students. There are excellent conversations taking place between teachers and students, and among the students themselves. Teachers are utilizing various websites to run virtual labs, and many are using Google Hangouts to offer extra help at certain times of the day. In some classrooms, teachers and students are watching videos of phenomena together, and discussing what they see. Teachers are using "question" assignments to facilitate group discussions. Overall, teachers and students are navigating their new learning environments while finding new (and fun!) ways to share their learning and understanding of concepts.

Below is a note for 3-18-2020 from our Mathematics Supervisor, Mr. Lee

The mathematics department is utilizing Google Classroom as their virtual classroom. Lessons have been placed there for students to access during their class period. Teachers at both the middle and high school are using various resources such as Buzzmath, Khan Academy, and Edpuzzle. Along with those resources, teachers have found other new ways to interact and teach with students through live streaming via Zoom or Google Hangouts/Meet, Desmos, and also providing self recorded videos to their students using Screencastify. We are continuing to work and improve through the new learning environment to provide students with high quality instruction.

Below is a note for 3-18-2020 from our Language Arts Supervisor, Mrs. Cicarelli

As my own children sit in the next room logged in on their Chromebooks, I have been nothing but impressed by the work I see in my department. This morning I watched a Screencastify lesson on writing a vignette in the style of the author Sandra Cisneros for freshman English. Then I stopped by a junior class where a teacher was editing a student essay through Google doc as the student worked on it--making suggestions as they wrote! Sixth-grade students are watching a Youtube Video of a read-aloud of the short story they recently read. As they watched the video, they were commenting in real-time; they held a whole class discussion with both the LA and Inclusion teachers before working independently on another task connected with the story. Many of the "classrooms" I visited had posts just for questions like How are you doing today? or What did you have for breakfast? Teachers and students are balancing learning and socializing and making the most of this new way of schooling.

Below is a note for 3-18-2020 from our World Language/ELL Supervisor, Ms. Despaigne

Day 3 of online learning has been a new experience for both teachers and students. It is very interesting to see all the different ways teachers have been using Google Classroom for distance learning. For instance, teachers have been able to use Google for online chatting formats, where students have to answer a group discussion question in the target language, especially at the AP level. At the elementary level, teachers who are able have used native language, as a support for parents as well as newcomer students. This has been useful for keeping students engaged and on task, and parents aware of classroom activities. At the middle school WorldLanguage teachers have been using audio text files from our Realidades digital textbook where students can practice listening skills in the target language. Teachers have also been using videos, audio, and chat formats through Google Hangouts for class discussion, or whole group instruction. This is a time for thinking outside of the box, and this current situation is making teachers use creative ways to engage students and achieve measurable learning objectives in innovative ways.

Below is a note for 3-18-2020 from our Social Studies Supervisor Mr. Cullen

To this point, the Social Studies Department is on task. The lessons have been planned and each class meets at their assigned time. The teachers agree that everyone involved is working to create a meaningful experience under adverse conditions.

In the middle school, teachers are using a variety of strategies each day. These range from videos to discussions via Google Hangout. The youngsters have sent a number of questions to teachers and staff members are working hard to stay current. Yesterday, the grade 6 students finished class with a visual 'pet show and tell.'

The high school is following suit. In addition to traditional lessons, teachers have begun using visual and digital materials in their lessons. These include: lectures, documents, and professionally produced videos on related topics. Teachers and students are in contact on a regular basis and all are working to stay ahead of the changing curve.

We are witnessing a virtual school in real time. While most have expressed a desire to return to campus, everyone has accepted this as our new normal. The creativity and enthusiasm we see each day is helping us through a most unusual time in history.

Previous Information unchanged from earlier updates:

Self-Quarantine

Because a staff member at Anna C. Scott School has tested positive for Covid-19, all staff and students at Anna C. Scott School should immediately begin a period of self-quarantine, extending **through Saturday, March 27, 2020**. In addition, any student or staff member that participated in SACC should also self-quarantine. This means that you should remain in your homes and monitor yourself for any symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, you should contact your physician.

We cannot and will not identify individuals who have tested positive for Covid-19. HIPAA regulations require that we keep this information confidential. Please understand if anyone in your family is ill, please contact your medical provider.

Counseling Services

If a student is in need of counseling services, he or she should email their school counselor. Counselors are checking emails throughout the day.

If your child is having a mental health emergency, you can call 201-262-4357 (HELP)

Attendance Procedures

While students are participating in Distance Learning, attendance will be taken in the following ways:

- **Anna C. Scott School:** Attendance procedures depend on the grade level and will be verified by parent signature on work packets already distributed, email from the parent to the teacher, or verified through Google Classroom. Teachers have communicated expectations.
- **Leonia Middle School:** Attendance will be taken in each course through Google Classroom. Courses will meet online during their normally scheduled time period and students will be expected to check in during that time period.

- Leonia High School: Attendance will be taken in each course through Google Classroom. Courses will meet online during their normally scheduled time period and students will be expected to check in during that time period.

Health Resources

Update from the New Jersey State School Nurses Association:

[COVID-19 Guidance for School Settings](#)

NJ Department of Health Resources regarding Coronavirus and Covid-19:

[COVID-19](#)

Bergen County Department of Health

[Novel Coronavirus - Info & Resources](#)]

Have general questions about COVID-19? Call the public hotline!

Call the NJ COVID-19 & Poison Center Public Hotline at

1-800-962-1253 or 1-800-222-1222

Educational Resources and Distance Learning

Teachers will continue to communicate with families to support distance learning and share additional resources with students and parents. Questions regarding distance learning should be directed to the students' teachers via email. E-mail addresses can be found in the District's [Directory](#).

School Closings Update

The Leonia School District buildings will continue to be closed through Friday, April 3, observing the distance learning protocols previously provided to all students. Spring break is already scheduled for April 6 through April 10; therefore, the current plan is to reopen Leonia School District Buildings on April 13, 2020 (subject to conditions at that time).

Hotline

General Information

Ed Bertolini - Superintendent- 201-815-8470 or email bertolini@leoniaschools.org

Greg Van Nest - Director of Instruction and Curriculum 201-302-5200 extension 1201

LHS

Chuck Kalender - LHS Principal - 201-676-0363 or kalender@leoniaschool.org

Mark Sernatinger - LHS Vice Principal 862-239-6476 Or sernatinger@leoniaschools.org

LMS

Dave Saco - LMS Principal - 201-429-5207 or saco@leoniaschools.org

April King - LMS Vice Principal 973-559-3301 or Kinga@leoniaschools.org

ACS

Maria Martinez - ACS Principal - 862-295-2540 or Mariamartienz@leoniaschools.org

Erich Breyer - ACS Vice Principal 862-295-1385 or Breyer@leoniaschools.org

Special Education -

Anthony Servis - Director of Special Services 201-815-4160 or servis@leoniaschools.org

Tech Support

Tafari Anderson - IT Direct 201-302-5200 extension 1205 or anderson@leoniaschools.org

Uzma Abbas 201-302-5200 extension 3224 or Abbass@leoniaschools.org

Community Access

- Registration of new students -Call the superintendent directly at Dr. Bertolini at 201-302-5200 extension 1200 or 201-815-8470 between 9:00am and 3:00pm
- Board meetings - to be determined

AP Testing - SAT - March 2020 and May 2020

First, Ms. Stein will be sending additional information as she receives it from the College Board. If you have any specific questions, please contact your school counselor.

Below is a statement from the College Board that was sent to Ms. Stein last night, March 16th.

In response to the rapidly evolving situation around the coronavirus (COVID-19) and guidance from public health organizations, the College Board is canceling the May 2, 2020, SAT® administration. Makeup exams for the March 14 administration (scheduled March 28) are also canceled. Collegeboard will provide refunds to all students who are registered for May, whose March test centers were closed, or who do not receive March scores due to an irregularity.

Top priority is the health and safety of students and educators.

Collegeboard will provide future additional SAT testing opportunities for students as soon as feasible in place of canceled administrations. The Collegeboard has not yet canceled the June 6, 2020, SAT administration and will continue to assess its status.

Collegeboard will be flexible, thoughtful, and collaborative in exploring ways to continue to support student learning and provide opportunities to test during this challenging time. Thank you for your partnership.

Middle School and High School - Grades and Marking Periods

From yesterday:

We understand that the school closures may affect marking period grades. Administration is looking at options to adjust the marking period dates. We will keep all students and parents informed of any decisions made about this.

Today's Update:

Today, Ms. Stein, Mr. Saco and Mr. Kalender and I met to discuss the issue. The following is what we discussed.

Leonia Middle School

The current marking period ends on **April 3rd**. At this point, we have not determined if the date will remain constant or there will be an adjustment to the end of the third marking period. More details to follow.

Leonia High School

The current marking period ends on **March 30th**. At this point, we have not determined if the date will remain constant or there will be an adjustment to the end of the third marking period. More details to follow.