

To All Members of the Leonia School Community,

We continue to try and make our current status as “normal” as possible. Day #2 is going well in the schools. I am so pleased that all segments of our school community - students, faculty, staff, parents, custodial staff, tech department, administrators, supervisors, business office staff, directors, and central office personnel - are making the best of a very difficult situation.

There are many ways we have traditionally celebrated different holidays throughout the year.



Today, as many of you know, is St. Patrick's Day.



In past years, parades and gatherings at restaurants and elsewhere were common and the norm. But this year our “norm” has changed. Please refrain from leaving your home to socialize with others. We need to keep distancing ourselves from groups of people to



protect our own well-being. Soda bread, corned beef, and cabbage (or something similar to these items) can be enjoyed this year with your immediate family. Don't leave your house unless it is completely necessary. We will all benefit if everyone follows what the Center for Disease Control CDC recommends.

Remember, “Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day”

General Update

- ChromeBook loaners were distributed to parents and students from 9:00am to 1:00pm the last two days. Members of the Administration and Custodial team also delivered devices to students in Leonia and Edgewater.
- Daily meals were delivered to families in Leonia and Edgewater, and were picked up from LMS and EVG.

Food Distribution

We will continue to distribute lunches and breakfasts for students in our lunch program from 11:00-12:00 noon (this is as change) at two pickup locations. This is a reduced window for pickup at either LMS or EVG. 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. **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 call 201-302-5200 x1203 or Dr. Bertolini at bertolini@leoniaschools.org

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.

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.

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.

Special Education Information:

Below is a note from the Director of Special Services Mr. Servis:

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).

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:

I want to give everyone some insight on the first day of Distance Learning. I have asked the three principals to provide a summary of the day and for some comments from their school communities. Each school is listed below:

Anna C. Scott School

From Dr. Martinez:

Teachers are active on Google classroom and email. They are providing videos and guidance on chats. Primary teachers are sending emails, on Remind and through the school website, with updated resources and are answering questions. Students and teachers are directing each other on how to access information and work out problems. Information is available on teacher websites, Google Classroom, Remind, and emails.

The ACS library site and Ms. Ruffo's websites have a plethora of resources for parents and students to access daily such as Lunch Time with Doodles with Mo Williems, Join author Mo Williems everyday at 1:00 to doodle; or Take a Virtual Field Trip ! Students can take a trip to the zoo, Yellowstone National Park, Mars and More!; Lunch Time with Peter Reynolds, the author will read aloud his books at 12:00 every day!

Parents, through the H&S and Ms. Caba-Martinez, are providing ongoing feedback on what is working and what we need to adjust. Some feedback includes:

"It went way better than expected. ... teachers sent an explanation and Google is going well."

"Definitely a challenge to keep kids engaged at home.. I am setting up a schedule."

"It is really well organized. I've been receiving updates as well. So far so good."

"Google classroom worked fine... lower level grades is hard work for parents but we are having fun."

A parent also sent this directly to Dr. Martinez today.

Dr. Martinez,

Thank you for reaching out. I hope you and your family are doing well .

Both (*two children*) had good first days of virtual learning and I've heard positive things overall from other parents in the community . (*My daughter*) knew what she had to get done and it helped that we made up a schedule for her to follow and to take brain and food breaks. She needed a little help with clarifications but overall things were clear .

(*My other daughter*) worked independently , and knew exactly what she had to do and reached out to (*her teacher*) when she had a question and (*the teacher*) was very responsive ! but I can tell she is going to miss the social piece of being part of a classroom.

I think the hardest part since this experience is indefinite is that we keep the personal connection. One idea is that teachers send out a morning message to their class via email or video mentioning anything special about the day or a question to ponder or a challenge (like a morning meeting would include \) also attaching a present picture of the teacher is great of something they did or tried or just to show their face .

A parent also suggested encouraging kids to stay connected . Find a common time to face time and do gym together or talk over a snack. Amelia had a virtual play date with her friend so at least they got to see each other and chat.

Please let the teachers know how appreciative we are for all they did to get this going !!

An ACS parent

Leonia Middle School

From Mr. Saco :

Monday, March 16, 2020:

· The academic day of remote Virtual Learning Experience for LMS students began at 8:30am. Students checked into each of their academic bell period classes and completed

lessons and work posted by their teachers. Teachers logged student attendance based on students answering attendance questions, and on the work that was submitted. Our academic day ended at 3:00pm. Checking into Google Classroom, it was evident that LMS students were engaged in learning activities and were completing and submitting their work. Teachers and students were interacting with each other, discussing content in real time.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020:

- LMS students began Day 2 of remote Virtual Learning Experiences at 8:30. Checking into teachers' Google Classrooms, it was evident that students and teachers got right to work, and were engaged in a variety of academic learning activities.

Anecdotal Feedback from LMS parents and teachers:

- A parent wrote: "Hello Principal Saco, I wanted to let you know that I am very impressed by how your staff of teachers is conducting their virtual lessons. (*child's*) social studies teacher uploaded an in-depth lecture I overheard, and (*child's*) math teacher used Google Hangouts and Classroom to teach her virtual class in a real time manner. (*child's*) science teacher uploaded an excellent video for his lesson as well. I just wanted to let you know your teachers are doing an excellent job!"
- A parent wrote: "Thanks for all that you and the staff are doing!! The digital learning seems to be going quite well today. I think that the students really like when the teacher uses the Google Hangout feature and they can see/hear each other."
- An LMS teacher wrote: "Students have all been present and working!"

Leonia High School

From Mr. Kalender:

Day 1 went off without a hitch for LHS teachers. Students all seemed to be logged in and hard at work. There was a lot of communication between student and teacher in the Google Classroom Stream which made for good conversations.

A Teacher survey was sent by Mr. Kaledner to the LHS staff after Day #1

Some of the comments from the Google Survey are below:

Q1. How did the Google Form work for attendance?

“Perfect. I only had 2 students absent. 1 reached out to me.”

“Very effective. The students found it easy to navigate and they all completed it.”

“Perfectly”

Q2. Is there one piece of technology that worked well for you today that you would like to share with your colleagues?

“I uploaded videos that I recorded last night. I screen-recorded my laptop screen via Quicktime Player as I went through the PDF notes and filled in notes and drawing through Preview (Adobe works too). Several students said that it was very helpful because I also uploaded the blank guided notes for them to follow along on. I also used the Google Classroom assignment post as a "Chat Room" where students can ask questions and see my response publicly. Many students utilized this and were responding to each other's questions.”

"Student Work" option under assignments allows me to open up every student's Google Doc file as they are working on it. This enabled me to check in on their work, provide immediate feedback, and answer their questions directly.”

“Google Hangouts Meet for a smaller class.” This allows for video conferences if the teacher decides to use this form of technology.

Q3. If you would like to share one positive and one negative comment about our first day of Distance Learning.

Positive - “Think everything went well. Students, Staff, Parents were all flexible and diligent in their responsibilities”

Positive: “It definitely was smoother than I thought.”

Positive: "I was able to help a student work on their assignment in real time through the comments feature."

Positive: "Google classroom made communication between teacher and student very easy. And the students are definitely used to using this everyday which helped make transition easy."

Concern: "This all made me realize how much I like teaching for real and how much I missed the fellowship of the building."

From a LHS parent:

It was really seamless! No hitches, and she was working diligently all day. Then able to relax right at 3. You must have spent hours getting everyone up to speed. Her friends all had the same experience. I liked (*a teacher*) video. Very cute ☺.

Previous Information unchanged from earlier updates:

Counseling Services - no change from previous updates

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 - no change from previous updates

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 - no change from previous updates

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

Computer Distribution - no change from previous updates

If your child needs a computer to be able to participate in distance learning, you may borrow a Chromebook from the 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.

Educational Resources and Distance Learning - no change from previous updates

Instructions for distance learning were shared with students and families last week. 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 - no change from previous updates

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 - this information has not changed

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 - this has not changed

- 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