

## **Status Update - Coronavirus - Friday 4-3-2020**

To the Leonia School District Community,

A short time ago in early March, I was in NYC with my cousins from Florida . They were here for a mini- vacation and we enjoyed a play and dinner. The city was bustling as usual with tourists and locals.... A few weeks later, the city is quiet. Life has significantly changed in just a few weeks.

As we begin our Spring Break, I want to again extend my gratitude to our students, faculty, staff, and parents for their cooperation and support during our Distance Learning initiative. This change has been difficult and instant. Through the efforts of a dedicated faculty, hard-working and conscientious student body and parents becoming the teacher assistant in their homes, we have had a productive three weeks.

Please take time to relax in your homes during spring break. A recent TV commercial underscores the importance of following the guidelines set by our governor, “We stay apart today so we can be together later”. Let’s remain diligent about social distancing so we can be parts of our communities when this is over.

Best wishes for Health, Safety, and Happiness,  
Dr. Bertolini

### **A Thank You to our Girl Scouts**

Our local girl-scout troop donated their booth sale cookies of roughly 130 boxes to the children at ACS that are part of our lunch program.

We thank them for their generosity.

Thanks also goes to Nurse Linda Bernard and our Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Kevin Woods for making this happen today so quickly.

## **Tech Hotline**

Dear Parent,

As we embark on this journey of distance learning, we have identified the need to extend our technology resources to you to support our virtual learning environment. We would like you to know that we are here to provide tech support for distance learning if and when you need it. So, if you are experiencing technology difficulties during class hours and would like to reach our help desk for assistance, please follow the directions below to create a ticket.

### **Steps to Create a Ticket**

1. [www.leoniaschools.org](http://www.leoniaschools.org)
2. Left Click: Departments > Technology
3. Left Click: Help Desk Icon
4. Please accurately complete the form
5. Left Click: Submit

After submitting the request an email will be sent to you to track the progress of your ticket. Please be advised that support is available Monday to Friday between 8am to 3pm and student information will not be provided via this forum for security reasons. It is highly recommended that all guardian contact information in your [Genesis Portal](#) is current when contacting the Help Desk.

The Leonia School District Tech Team

## **The REVISED High School Daily Schedule** **Post-Spring Break Beginning Monday, April 13th**

Click on the attached calendar for the daily rotation for the high school following spring break.  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eXcu2YSQD8T7cZvgQMLV\\_Ago9cJ9Xcn1O4uvaAbe-ZQ/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eXcu2YSQD8T7cZvgQMLV_Ago9cJ9Xcn1O4uvaAbe-ZQ/edit?usp=sharing)

## **ACS Music Trip**

Today the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra informed us that the ACS 4th Grade Music Trip which had been scheduled for May 6th has been canceled. While this is disappointing news, the NJSO's decision is in the best interest of the public health at this time.

## **A.C.S. SPIRIT WEEK**

Send me your photos for Throwback Thursday and Fun & Wacky Friday!  
[edward.bertolini@leoniaschools.org](mailto:edward.bertolini@leoniaschools.org) Thanks!



In keeping up with our theme, I'm introducing the kids to *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*, one of my favorites. Stay safe and healthy! (check out the TV screen in the background)

## **ACS Update 4-3-2020 from Dr. Martinez**



Today Ms. Almeida, Ms. Jufer and Mr. Babos held an ACS community campfire. Along with Ms. Almeida students practiced mindfulness strategies. Mr. Babos and Ms. Jufer led the students in song, including the ACS song.

Students in third grade continued to share reading passages, like [Dino Dig](#).

Some fourth grade students took a virtual visit to Six Flags and wrote about their experiences on their favorite rides.

Some fifth grade students had a virtual writers' celebration for their published writing.

### **LMS Update 4-3-2020 from Mr. Saco**

Please join me in congratulating our 2020 LMS Teacher of the Year! Check out my announcement video here: [LMS Teacher of the Year](#)

Today our 8th grade student scientists solved a big fish mystery! Our students in Mrs. Slane and Mrs. Mangino's science classes used Google Sites to uncover the details. Their charge was as follows: *"Fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico are experiencing smaller yields in the nets. They are simply catching fewer fish. This is creating economic hardship for the fishermen and their families, but also for the states that border the Gulf of Mexico where fishing is a major component of the economy. You have been hired by a local government to identify the problem and propose a solution. You will have to identify a claim, support it with evidence, and clearly define reasoning. You will then need to suggest a solution."* To follow the trail yourself, start by following this link: [Fish Mystery](#)

After reading Newsela articles about COVID-19, Mrs. Chun's students shared their reactions with each other on video using the platform FlipGrid. Their responses to this crisis, as well as toward each other were filled with honesty and empathy. It is really impressive to hear our LMS students expressing to each other how important it is to work together to flatten the curve. Great job students!

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you all a restful and relaxing Spring Recess. We'll see you on Monday, April 13. In the meantime...remember to take care of yourselves and each other!

Peace,  
Dave Saco

## LHS Update 4-3-2020 from Mr. Kalender

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eXcu2YSQD8T7cZvgQMLV\\_Ago9cJ9Xcn104uvaAbe-ZQ/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eXcu2YSQD8T7cZvgQMLV_Ago9cJ9Xcn104uvaAbe-ZQ/edit?usp=sharing)

Leonia Students and teachers have been hard at work, even as we head into spring break. In one of our music classes students have been using a note reading app called Notes Trainer. It provides a daily score as well as a last 7 days chart that they post to the Classroom. They are really enjoying the app and are all showing improved speed and accuracy. After break they will begin to do voice training videos via Loom.

In Culinary Essentials students had the ability to choose what you learn, in a project that asked them to use a YouTube video of their interest in culinary or hospitality. They then wrote a series of questions about the video and did a video analysis. The students chose a wider variety of topics and the teacher was surprised and pleased by the depth and width of topics chosen.

As we get ready to change from MP 3 to MP 4 classes when we return, one of our PE teachers shared the following message with their seniors as they move to a free 4<sup>th</sup> marking period.

### *A MESSAGE TO MY PERIOD 3 AND PERIOD 6 SENIORS –*

*The return to school this academic year is something still in question. You are now officially done with high school physical education. In the event that Governor Murphy decides that we will finish the 2019-20 school year via Distance Learning, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all much success, happiness, and health in your future. When you graduate in June and leave LHS, you will all start a new path to the next chapter of your lives. It's an exciting time for you; it's what you've been working toward. The Class of 2020 will also be my last graduating class as I too will be starting something new...retirement! We are all off to new beginnings!*

As we head into Spring Break our teaching staff put together a video sendoff together for the students. I would like to give a special thank you to Ms. Wong and Ms. DeLorenzo for organizing and editing the video. Please click on the link below to see our message to the students.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kKluSVTeXDpy708xzksbIPS9\\_PFGT3BG/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kKluSVTeXDpy708xzksbIPS9_PFGT3BG/view?usp=sharing)

## **Special Education Update 4-3-2020 from Mr. Servis**

We made it through 3 weeks of distance learning! Now we all get a much needed and deserved week “off” during Spring Break. I know that in the past few weeks you have probably been inundated with resources from many different sources. Sometimes it is hard to vet all these resources and recognize the good from the bad. Below is a list of a few resources regarding various topics that I have complied with the help of the Leonia staff. All of these are free and recommended by our teachers, administrators, and support staff. I hope you find them useful.

On another note, the Child Study Team from each school met separately this week with myself and the school’s administrators. These meetings are typical during the school year and usually happen 2-3 times per month. We talked about some of the challenges and successes of distance learning. We are working on solutions for the problems, and in some cases you may be contacted to discuss the situation as well.

One of my biggest concerns in general are the high school students, specifically the seniors, who are not keeping up with their online assignments. Mr. Kalender and I are sensitive to the challenges our IEP students have during this time. Please encourage your children to make an effort to complete their work. If we see that an effort is being made, then there is no reason why a student should fail during distance learning. If they need extra help, please contact their classroom teachers, study skills teachers, and/or case manager. You can also always call or email me too: [Anthony.Servis@leonaschools.org](mailto:Anthony.Servis@leonaschools.org) or 201-815-4160

### **Teaching Our Children from Home**

[Teaching and Parenting in Troubled Times](#) is a nice article about teaching our children at home, with considerations for special learners.

[Tufts University](#) also published a short but informative article for home schooling during this time.

[Owlieboo](#) has educational games for our very young learners and [Circle Time](#) has activities for children 0-6 years old.

### **Reading**

The National Emergency Library has made 1.5 million books available to borrow now through June 30th. Audiobooks are available too! It is free to sign up and you can borrow up to 10 books at a time. [Sign up here](#). Then [Get books here](#). They have books for all ages and in many different languages.

[Readworks](#) has reading comprehension tools for all levels of readers. Be sure to check out the page specifically for families [here](#) as well.

[Storyline Online](#) is a website where you can access videos of celebrated actors and actresses reading children's books aloud. They have closed captioning on the bottom of the video so your children can follow along reading as well.

## **Science**

[Science Buddies](#) has STEM activities you can do at home for children in grades K-12.

[Liberty Science Center](#) has “in-the-house” science activities and videos for free. For older students, you can even watch a kidney transplant operation [here!](#)

[Here](#) you can find 63 science experiments using household items. WARNING: I cannot promise they won't make a mess!

## **Entertainment**

If you want to make some popcorn and gather as a family and watch a free movie or kids TV show, [Tubity](#) has a nice selection.

## **Cooking**

[Spatulatta](#) is one of my favorite websites! It has over 350 recipes and videos specifically for kids.

## **Mindfulness and Yoga**

[Peace Out](#).has great relaxation stories for kids. These are great to listen to before bed.

[Cosmic Kids](#) has many free yoga videos.

[Head Space](#) has mediation articles and activities.

[Go Noodle](#) has movement break activities and games. Here are the favorites of Stephanie McGown, the Occupational Therapist at ACS: [Be the pond](#) [Rainbow breath](#) [Strength and Focus](#)

## **Anxiety & Counseling**

[The Child Mind Institute](#) has many articles to help parents with anxious or stressed children, including specific information pertaining to anxiety revolving around the Covid-19 pandemic.

NJMentalHealthCares 1-866-202-HELP (4357) or [help@NJMentalHealthCares.org](mailto:help@NJMentalHealthCares.org) - 24/7 free confidential mental health information and referral

NJ Hopeline 1-855-654-6735 -The NJ Hopeline has specialists available 24/7 who offer counseling and support over the phone

Thank you, be well, and enjoy Spring Break!

Anthony

### **Students Services Update 4-3-2020 from Ms. Stein**

#### **AP Exam Update**

The College Board has begun to release information regarding the online AP Exam. All students registered in an AP course must sit for the AP exam.

Testing will begin on May 11, 2020.

Unlike the prior testing schedule, this schedule was designed to prevent ANY exam conflicts that students could have with other tests. If school is back in session on these dates, the new 45-minute format is designed to allow students to test within a class period.

Further details will be posted on the college board website later today.

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>

ALL exams will be 45 minutes. Students will have a popup timer on their screen in order to submit the exam before time expires. Submissions after test time has expired will not be scored. Students must be mindful of their testing time.

Students are not barred from using notes and textbooks--this cannot be prevented, and so test questions will emphasize APPLICATION over CONTENT. Students may NOT consult with other students to complete the exam. The College Board has methods that they will employ to detect test fraud. **Students discovered to have cheated will be penalized harshly. The College Board will notify ALL SCHOOLS students have sent test scores about the test fraud/cheating, so students should ABSOLUTELY NOT CHEAT. The College Board is serious about this.**

Colleges have promised to honor scores on AP exams the same way they have in the past. The changes to the exams this year will NOT affect college credit opportunities.

Students may test on a cell phone, laptop, tablet or desktop computer. They may type and paste their responses, or write them, photograph them, and submit them. Any student with tech concerns may preemptively contact College Board at [cb.org/tech](http://cb.org/tech)

The College Board hopes to post practice exam questions in all tested subjects by mid/end of April. In addition, the College Board will be creating a testing user's guide for students and teachers to use as a reference. They will also be creating simulations for students to practice the uploading and submission of their work.

If students have any questions, have them contact their AP teachers about specific exam questions.

Exam Start Times >		AP		CollegeBoard
Local times may vary depending on a student's geographic location.		Hawaii Time: 6:00am Alaska Time: 8:00am Pacific Time: 9:00am Mountain Time: 10:00am Central Time: 11:00am Eastern Time: 12:00pm	Hawaii Time: 8:00am Alaska Time: 10:00am Pacific Time: 11:00am Mountain Time: 12:00pm Central Time: 1:00pm Eastern Time: 2:00pm	Hawaii Time: 10:00am Alaska Time: 12:00pm Pacific Time: 1:00pm Mountain Time: 2:00pm Central Time: 3:00pm Eastern Time: 4:00pm
<b>Primary</b>				
Mon, May 11	Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	United States Government and Politics	
Tues, May 12	Latin	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Human Geography	
Wed, May 13	Physics 2: Algebra-Based	English Literature and Composition	European History	
Thurs, May 14	Spanish Literature and Culture	Chemistry	Physics 1: Algebra-Based	
Fri, May 15	Art History	United States History	Computer Science A	
Mon, May 18	Chinese Language and Culture	Biology	Environmental Science	
Tues, May 19	Music Theory	Psychology	Japanese Language and Culture Italian Language and Culture	
Wed, May 20	German Language and Culture	English Language and Composition	Microeconomics	
Thurs, May 21	French Language and Culture	World History: Modern	Macroeconomics	
Fri, May 22	Comparative Government and Politics	Statistics	Spanish Language and Culture	
<b>Make-up</b>				
Mon, June 1	United States Government and Politics Physics C: Mechanics	Human Geography Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	Calculus AB Calculus BC Latin	
Tues, June 2	English Literature and Composition Spanish Literature and Culture	Physics 1: Algebra-Based European History	Chemistry Physics 2: Algebra-Based	
Wed, June 3	United States History Art History	Environmental Science Computer Science A	Biology Chinese Language and Culture	
Thurs, June 4	English Language and Composition German Language and Culture	Japanese Language and Culture Italian Language and Culture Microeconomics	Psychology Music Theory	
Fri, June 5	World History: Modern Macroeconomics	Spanish Language and Culture Comparative Government and Politics	Statistics French Language and Culture	

## Leonia Athletics Update for LHS & LMS 4-3-2020

### A message from Steven Perrotta - Director of Athletics

All extra-curricular activities, including athletics, are still on hold while students are learning remotely. This does not mean the spring athletic season has been canceled but it does mean that no school district or coach can conduct practices, scrimmages or games. This is a mandatory no contact period for all coaches and student athletes as per the NJSIAA. I'm staying

positive and holding out hope that a portion of the spring season will be saved. While the student's engage in distant learning, our spring student athletes are doing the same. Every coach in the district has created either a Google Classroom or Remind Chat with his or her respective teams and the response from the students has been excellent. Coaches are posting guided workouts, skill training sessions, inspirational messages and many more activities to keep the student athletes motivated. Click on the link below to see a Fundamentals of Batting video put together by our varsity softball coach Jackie Albanese. I said it in my last report and I'll say it again, I'm looking forward to seeing our student athletes on the ball fields, tennis courts, tracks and golf courses.

As the Director of Athletics for the Leonia School District I couldn't be prouder of our coaches for stepping up to the plate and our spring student athletes for preparing diligently at home in anticipation of a spring season. If you have any questions, please contact me via email at Perrotta@leoniaschools.org. From everybody in the Leonia Athletic Department, please be safe and be well.

Lion Pride!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ipwu7K2\\_wQ&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ipwu7K2_wQ&feature=youtu.be)

### **Physical Education & Health Update 4-3-2020 from Mr. Perrotta, PE & Health Supervisor**

As we approach spring break, distant learning for Physical Education and Health classes have been going extremely well. The Physical Education teachers continue to utilize multiple platforms when communicating with their students. These platforms include Google classroom, teacher websites, teacher- made videos, You Tube videos and packets. If you haven't already viewed Mr. Cimo's Driver Education lesson it is a must watch, the link is below. The teachers are doing a great job of mixing up the lessons between written assignments and physical activities.

The workout regimens and activities are constantly updated and remain fresh. The activities are both fun and challenging and can be done in the safety of your own home. Attendance and response by the students continues to be excellent and the motivation level remains high.

A big thank you goes out to all the parents and students who are sending such thoughtful emails during this difficult time and the video messages sent to the ACS teachers of the kids doing their exercises are adorable. From the Physical Education family to yours, please be safe and be well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WnMhVU95v8>

## **Social Studies Update 4-3-2020 from Mr. Cullen, Social Studies Supervisor**

The Social Studies Department is on task. Lessons continue and the students are engaged in a variety of ways. We are all working to create a meaningful experience under historic conditions.

In the middle school, we began the week with Mr. Gugick's 'walk up music.' He contacted Howard Cosell's grandson and made an audio introducing his class with appropriate music from City Field in the background. In other news, the Modern World History course is studying 'Exploration and Colonization,' Mrs. Albanese-Reiner's students are doing the antebellum period with a Google Earth project, and her middle school colleagues continue to teach their lessons. Among the popular strategies are: videos, tutorials, and web-based projects on the Google platform.

The high school teachers are equally engaged, each experimenting with a variety of strategies. In addition to guided readings, document analysis, and essays, some are weaving in puzzles and video chats. Some have begun to weave in 'reflection' pieces as a way to help our young people adjust to the 'new normal' through writing.

The Foundations classes are moving along in fine fashion. Teachers have developed a series of structured lessons similar to those delivered in school. These begin with a brief lecture followed by either guided reading or video analysis. Mr. Farina has based his longer assignments on a scaffolding technique taught in the second marking period while Mr. Luzzi has incorporated discussion boards. His students are thus able to respond to specific questions and debate with one another. And Mr. Vesce has modified his Modern World History projects into smaller parts to facilitate better understanding.

The Advanced Placement students continue to prepare for this year's revised test. Five separate courses will be assessed on a 45-minute written exercise. Unlike any AP examination ever given, this has required all hands to adapt and adjust the review process. The teachers are using a variety of materials from The College Board, Gilder Lehrman, and selected publishers. We just received an additional option today from McGraw Hill available to students at no cost until June.

As Mr. Gugick comes to bat, and the Mets' public address system plays his individual song, students, teachers, and administrators are all staying focused on the task at hand. Hopefully there won't be any more curve balls.

## **World Languages and ELL Update 4-3-2020 from Mrs. Despaigne World Languages and ELL Supervisor**

Teaching language online has proven to be a challenge, however our teachers in the ESL & World Language department are up for it. Currently right now in their classrooms, they are using innovative ways to hone in on the four language domains of language: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. They have been using Google classroom features such as the Google Docs voice to text speech feature, Google Hangouts, and they have uploaded videos featuring natural conversations in the target language. Our AP teachers are working diligently to prepare students for the AP exams, through resources and updates from AP College Board.

The department has put together a document with strategies for content area teachers to use when working with newcomer students such as Google Drawing sketch, and Common Lit for leveled reading materials both fiction and non-fiction. Teachers have been collaborating with each other to find new ways to help all of our students learn and grow through this process.

## **Mathematics Update 4-3-2020 from Mr. Lee, Mathematics Supervisor**

The mathematics department continues to work to increase engagement and understanding through virtual learning. Both LMS and LHS teachers have been working with students through Google Classroom as their main form of communication, but have continued to expand their lessons utilizing other online resources. Teachers have been using Khan Academy, IXL, Desmos and more to engage and help students apply their knowledge. Other teachers continue to develop other ways of providing instruction. LHS teachers are providing live lessons via Zoom and Google Hangouts Meet to conduct lessons and help students with issues. Other teachers are uploading teacher made recordings for students to view and ask questions in the Classroom.

AP mathematics courses continue to adjust their instruction to prepare their students with review materials as updates from CollegeBoard about the test format and dates. Students should hear from their teachers for more information on the new test date and the 45 minute exam. McGraw Hill has provided free resources for students to review. [Link](#) for resource. AP Computer Science Principles will not have a written exam. The portfolio will be the only component graded.

We hope that the students enjoy this break and use it to get rest.

### **Science Department Update 4-3-2020 from Ms. O'Hagan, Science Supervisor**

The Science Department has maintained a high level of student learning and inquiry during Distance Learning through the use of fun and interesting apps that enable collaboration. Students are able to interact with their teachers and their peers to study phenomena and simulations and to perform virtual labs. Teachers are using Google Hangouts to check in with their students and to discuss concepts.

Students in AP courses are doing good work as they prepare for the upcoming AP exams. Teachers are checking in to make sure their students can view and interact with the review materials released by the College Board. Students in AP Physics II are investigating Faraday's Law and Lenz's Law by using [PhET](#) interactive simulations. AP Biology students recently had an excellent discussion on immunity, all on a shared Google doc! The students collaborated with their instructor to create an informative and detailed thread. Students in AP Environmental Science are exploring nonrenewable resources and their impact using different websites, simulations, and websites using Real Time data.

### **English/Language Arts Department Update 4-3-2020 from Ms. Cicarelli, English Supervisor**

The Leonia English Language Arts Department has moved seamlessly from 21st Century teaching in the classroom to Distance Learning. The workshop model is the cornerstone of our literacy instruction and teachers are using different interactive approaches, be it Google Hangouts or ScreenCastify, to continue their mini-lessons to anchor their instruction. Small groups are meeting virtually in shared Google Docs or Zoom Breakout Rooms. Class discussions, even Socratic Seminars, continue as students meet using video chat platforms or text-based options available in Google Classroom or other websites like Padlet. Our teachers are also checking in to see that students are not just on track academically; using interactive surveys on Google Forms teachers are asking about their distance learning experiences and through more engaging sites like FlipGrid and SeeSaw they are finding ways for students to share their thoughts or feelings. We may not be able to see our students in person but we are finding ways to connect in new ways everyday. One of the best finds of the ELA department are the numerous websites offering FREE access to BOOKS! If you are looking for great reads over Spring Break please try one of these sites: [National Emergency Library](#), [Storyline Online](#), or [The Children's Literacy Center](#).

# **Previous Important Information Unchanged** **From Earlier Updates:**

## **When We Return From Spring Break.....**

To Our Students and Parents,,

I want to thank you for your wonderful efforts with our Distance Learning Initiative. Our teachers have been providing each of you with engaging and informative lessons. And you have grabbed the opportunity! We are in this together!

In a few days, we will begin Spring Break. Please have a relaxing and healthy vacation!

When we return from Spring Break, we will go to a modified schedule. After speaking with the three principals, the following schedule for each school will be implemented beginning Monday April 13th - the day we return from spring break.

Please click on this link to see the new schedule beginning April 13th.

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FeenigWR0H1y0eJVC9A6\\_6KrPSh0e-uXzNWrvIlnFIU](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FeenigWR0H1y0eJVC9A6_6KrPSh0e-uXzNWrvIlnFIU)

Thank you again for making distance learning an effective and educationally sound program. Keep working hard. We will get through this and we can move on with our aspirations, our goals, and our lives.

Be Safe! Be Healthy ! Self-quarantine !

Dr. Bertolini

**Assignment Free - Spring Break**  
**Guidelines for All Three Schools**

After speaking with the three principals, we agree that there needs to be time for the students to get a rest from the rigorous work assigned during the school year. Students will not be required to do any assignments during Spring Break.

- Teachers may distribute work prior to the Spring Break for those students that wish to complete any assignments during the break to reduce their workload once they return.
- Any assignment distributed prior to the Spring Break cannot be due until Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- There can be no tests or quizzes given until Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

This year more than ever students and staff need a break from the rigors of the classroom to decompress, relax, and regroup. We want all of the staff and students to enjoy their spring break, take some time to read a good book, sit outside in the spring weather, binge watch a good series on Netflix, or spend time with your family without the stressors of distance learning.

## **School Closings Update**

Governor Murphy extended the closing of school buildings in New Jersey until at least April 17, 2020.

- We will continue distance learning until spring break that begins after school on Friday, April 3.
- Spring break will begin on Saturday, April 4 and run through Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- We will return to distance learning school on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, continuing the distance learning protocols for at least another week.
- This is subject to change based on the conditions at that time. Governor Murphy will decide the week of April 13<sup>th</sup> if distance learning continues after April 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **LEONA HIGH SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM**

### **FOR THE THIRD AND FOURTH MARKING PERIODS**

Good Morning LHS students and parents,

In light of the recent events that have led us to move to distance learning the LHS administration has needed to make adjustments to the third and fourth marking periods and in effect grading for the remainder of the year. With the third marking period set to end on March 30th it is imperative that we make a change to the third marking period to give all students the proper opportunities they deserve. We did not want to add any additional pressure to students or teachers at this time to cram in assessments, complete outstanding work, and get assignments graded. We have decided that we will change third and fourth marking period grading into a second semester grade. In order to do this we will need to extend the third marking period in Genesis. The third marking period will now run into June. Teachers will continue to give assignments and grades in the third marking period. At the end of the year the teachers will take the grade for marking period 3 and also count it for marking period 4. This will allow us to count the grade as a second semester grade making up 40% (MP3 and MP4 will be posted to Genesis as the same grade calculating for 40% total) of the end of the year grade. We thank you for your understanding and being flexible during this challenging time. We will get through this together! Be Safe! Stay Healthy!

Mr. Chuck Kalender  
Principal

Mr. Mark Sernatinger  
Vice Principal

Ms. Adrienne  
Director of Student Services

Stein

### **LEONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM**

#### **FOR THE THIRD AND FOURTH MARKING PERIODS**

Dear LMS Parent Community,

During this time of Distance Learning LMS students and teachers have been working hard on many different academic assignments. Teachers are presenting content and assigning learning activities that are consistent with our curriculum, and although this work is being presented, completed, and submitted in new ways, the content and assignments are meaningful and important. The students' work is being scored by their teachers, who are then regularly updating Genesis gradebook. Our third marking period will close on Friday, April 3rd as scheduled. Please take some time to talk with your child about the work they are doing, and remember to check Genesis with your child, and talk about any assignments they have yet to submit. It is important that our students do not fall behind during this time of Distance Learning. While the third marking period closes next Friday, we will be extending the due date for posting of final MP3 grades. Doing so will give students some extra time to submit any missed assignments to their teachers, and will give teachers the time they need to score the work before posting grades. Note: All missing work for the third marking period must be

submitted to your child's teachers by Friday, April 17th. Third marking period grades will be due in Genesis by the close of business on Wednesday, April 22nd, with report cards becoming available for parents to view on April 23rd.

Our fourth marking period officially begins on Monday, April 13th. Should this time of Distance Learning extend beyond April 13, we will post new Google Classroom class codes for students' MP4 Cycle classes. Their codes will be posted in our daily Announcements page, sent to parents via LMS Eblast and Remind message, and posted on the LMS website. Much like the work students are completing now, content and assignments that students engage with during MP4 Distance Learning (should it be extended) will be scored by their teachers, and will count towards fourth marking period grading.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. These continue to be uncharted waters we are navigating. Your children and our teachers are doing amazing work! Together we will continue to learn and grow.

Be well and stay safe. Take care of yourselves, each other, and remember to make it great!

Best,

Dave Saco

## **New Jersey Commissioner of Education Cancels Statewide Student Assessments**

**This statement is from the New Jersey Department of Education:**

**Given the continued threat of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) to our school communities and the resulting school closures, Governor Phil Murphy today announced that the State of New Jersey is cancelling all statewide student assessments for the spring 2020 testing window. This includes the springtime administration of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA), ACCESS for ELLs, and the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment.**

We acknowledge that cancelling statewide assessments will impact various aspects of education, including educator evaluations and certification, and school and district accountability. We recognize educators, students, and families will have questions. We are working to mitigate any unintended consequences, and we will work through multiple channels to keep stakeholders fully informed of updated guidance and other changes.

Graduation Options Cancellation of statewide assessments will not prevent students from meeting their graduation assessment requirements. The NJDOE continues to process portfolio appeals for the small percentage of current seniors who have not yet met their graduation assessment requirement.

The NJDOE will make the NJSLA available in the summer or fall for current high school freshman, sophomores, and juniors (and middle school students taking high-school level courses) who may want to use the NJSLA high school assessments to meet their graduation assessment requirements.

Current juniors and sophomores also have access to the menu of alternate assessments (the SAT, etc.) and the portfolio appeal process as pathways to complete their graduation assessment requirement. These students are not required to take the NJSLA to access the menu of alternate assessments or the portfolio appeal process. Refer to the NJDOE's COVID-19 webpage for more information on these and other issues as it becomes available.

### **Food Distribution**

- As of Monday, March 23rd, we will only deliver meals directly to the homes of students that are part of our Lunch Program.

If you are part of the lunch program and have not yet confirmed that you will need meals delivered to your homes either in Leonia or Edgewater, please contact Dr. Bertolini at [bertolini@leoniaschools.org](mailto:bertolini@leoniaschools.org)

### **Computer Distribution**

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](mailto:bertolini@leoniaschools.org)

Chromebook distribution will be delivered directly to your homes in both Edgewater and Leonia for Edgewater students Grade 7-12 and all Leonia school students.

## **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.