

Status Update - Coronavirus - 3-19-2020

To All Members of the Leonia School Community,

Our Distance Learning format continues into our fourth day. Thanks to everyone that is part of the Leonia School Community from both Leonia and Edgewater. Your willingness to support our students in so many different ways is creating a nurturing, positive learning environment for our students. As I said yesterday, our school district is open - even though it is remotely. Let us continue to be a united team!

Although this document is long, I have divided the daily update into two parts. The first half is any new information. Pages 11-15 have information from previous days that has not changed. However, I am keeping this information in the daily update just in case you need to refer back to it or additional people are now reading the daily update for the first time.

If you have any general questions or comments, please send them to me at bertolini@leoniaschools.org Other administrators can be reached at their school email addresses. These reports are detailed. However, if there is an area we are not addressing, please let me know.

**Ed Bertolini
Superintendent of Leonia Schools**

SNOW DAY - NEXT WEDNESDAY MARCH 25th

We will use one of our Snow Days next Wednesday. The reasons are listed below:

1. To allow our teachers to prepare lessons for the third week of Distance Learning. Our teachers have been putting an amazing number of hours in class time, responding to questions outside of class time, preparing new lessons, and assisting students. Our support staff including our paraprofessionals, Student Services counselors, CST members, Special Education support staff, secretarial staff and

inclusion teachers are performing wonderfully. Our Administrative Team has continued to come in to maintain our schools.

2. Our students are learning how this “Distance Learning is going to work” and having been dutifully attending classes throughout the day. Their maturity to this crisis has been heartwarming. There are many negative things said in general about this new generation. Our students have demonstrated that this is not true in Edgewater and Leonia.

3. A day to distress. Everyone has worked so wonderfully together but we are all facing different levels of anxiety and additional responsibilities. Teachers, staff, students, and parents have been unbelievably supportive - we are a united team. My thanks to everyone.

Leonia High School Students Volunteer to Help in Town Translations for the Mayor’s Nixel Messages

Mayor Zeigler requested some volunteers from LHS to help the town translate important information about the CoronaVirus to the Korean and Spanish speaking residents of Leonia. On Monday afternoon, Mr. Kalender sent a Remind to the LHS community and received many emails from LHS students inquiring about helping their fellow residents. Within a few hours of the Remind, we had received seven LHS students offering to translate in Korean and eight LHS students offering to translate in Spanish.

Special thanks to these students for their service to our non-English speaking residents to ensure they are up-to-date regarding the Coronavirus.

Board of Education meetings

Board meetings - Any scheduled Board of Education meeting beginning on Tuesday, March 24th, has been cancelled until further notice due to restrictions placed on public gatherings of four or more people.

LHS Music Trip

Unfortunately, Heritage World Strides has cancelled the music trip schedule for April 16th to April 19th in Boston. Mr. Dunn was informed by Heritage that they will carry over the money that was paid for the trip towards our music trip for the Spring of 2021. Any senior that was scheduled to be on the trip will receive their full refund. All other students' payments will be applied towards next year's trip. Mr. Dunn has received word from Heritage that the cost of the trip will remain the same for next year. Students that have paid will not have to pay any additional funds for the trip in the Spring of 2021.

Special Thanks to Our Maintenance Staff and Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Kevin Wood.

The custodial, maintenance, and bus drivers are doing as follows.

This summary is directly from Kevin Woods:

- We are working room by room to strip and wax floors. We are also wiping down and disinfecting every surface in each room.
- Right now we have the second floor completed at LMS. Any rooms with carpet floors will be cleaned last.
- Crews have completed the high school's North Wing, first and second floors. They are continuing along the east side of the second floor and have already completed the lab rooms with the lab rooms. Any rooms with carpet floors will be cleaned last.
- Working with drivers from Ridgefield Park and some of our bus drivers, we are delivering food for Leonia and Edgewater students in the lunch program.
- Starting tomorrow, we will be installing the new hallway flooring at LMS.

Middle School and High School - Grades and Marking Periods

We are working on this. Please be assured it will be a fair plan for our students at both LMS and LHS. We have been in contact with Genesis. In this situation, technology makes it more of a challenge.

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 until Friday or home delivery.**

- Leonia residents can pick up at Leonia Middle School.
- Edgewater residents can pick up at Eleanor Van Gelder School.
- Half of the families that are part of our Lunch Program requesting meals have meals delivered to their homes.
- **On Monday, March 22nd, we will only be delivering meals directly to the homes.**
- ******* Since we are having a snow day next Wednesday, THERE WILL BE NO FOOD DELIVERY NEXT WEDNESDAY.**

To date, the lunch delivery system has worked very well. Again, thanks to our support staff for making this effectively processed. Job well done!

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 Dr. Bertolini at bertolini@leoniaschools.org

Computer Distribution

As of today, we have lent out over 250 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 be delivered directly to your homes in both Edgewater and Leonia for Edgewater students Grade 7-12 and all Leonia school students.

Special Education Information:

Below is a note for Thursday, 3-19-2020 from the Director of Special Services Mr. Servis:

Dear parents,

Distance Learning continues to evolve as we approach the end of week #1. IEP meetings have started with some success and only a few glitches. I want to update you on a few new developments, too. The Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists will be available to either video conference with your child via Google Hangouts, or call you on the phone to do a parent/service provider consultation. We will attempt to keep these sessions to once or twice a week for up to 20 minutes each session. Obviously this will look different for every student. In some cases, you may want to create a video of your child doing his OT activities, for instance, and send it to Stephanie or Jessica for feedback. In other instances, a telephone conference to consult on additional resources or activities might be appropriate. I will leave it up to you and your service providers.

If you would like to schedule a session for your child, please email the service provider directly (you may CC me on the email too). All email addresses can be found on the school's website here: [Staff Directory](#)

In addition, for students in our ABA & MD classes, our district's behaviorists, Gina O'Flaherty and Lisa Barfuss, are available for video conferencing or phone call consultations. In fact, they have begun to do this already this week. Again, if you would like to schedule a session for up to 20 minutes, please email them directly. Lisa will cover students at ACS and Gina will cover students at LMS and LHS.

Lisa found this great resource I want to share with everyone. They are offering free mindfulness classes for kids every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 1pm. Here is the link: [Mindfulness](#) We can all use a little mindfulness these days, so thank you Lisa!

School Psychologists and Social Workers continue to be available if you need them to call or videoconference your child.

I am also available via email or phone at 201-815-4160.

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

A message from Greg Van Nest- our Director of Instruction and Curriculum:

Like our teaching staff, many of the administrators and supervisors are working from home. We are working together to help our staff provide effective distance learning opportunities for our students. In addition to providing links and resources, we are also creating online professional learning opportunities for teachers and staff to model effective distance learning practices. So far, we have created video walkthroughs of tools such as Screencastify, Google Hangouts, FlipGrid, and Flipped/Blended Classrooms. We've also provided a Distance Learning FAQ and instructions on how to share videos with students and parents. We will continue to assess the needs of our community and work to provide support to staff.

Leonia Athletics Update (LHS & LMS)

A message from Steve Perrotta - Director of Athletics

While students are learning remotely and school buildings are closed, all extra curricular activities including athletics have been put on hold. What does this mean for spring athletics? As per the NJSIAA, during the governor's statewide shutdown of schools, no school district or coach can conduct practices, scrimmages or games. This is a mandatory no contact period for all coaches and student athletes. Coaches can communicate with

their student athletes via Remind, email, google classroom, etc. and have been advised to do so from the Athletic Director. The spring athletic season has not been canceled, it is currently put on hold. The hope is that a portion of the spring season can be salvaged and our student athletes will soon be seen on the ball fields, tennis courts, tracks and golf courses. Updates will be sent as we receive more information from the state. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Director of Athletics - Steven Perrotta at perrotta@leoniaschools.org.

Individual School Update - Thursday, March 19, 2020:

Anna C. Scott School

A note for Thursday 3-19-2020 from Dr. Martinez:

- Teachers continue to work with students with online chats, emails, phone calls to parents when needed, and videos.
- Ms Almeida sent a video today to reassure students. Ms. Corn prepared a P.E. video as well. Teachers are working on creating more videos for their students.
- Teachers are planning together on Google Drive in order to create templates of assignments to send home. These templates will follow predictable structures which students are used to such as read alouds, and shared reading, which parents can then reinforce at home.

Leonia Middle School

A note for Thursday 3-19-2020 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. Collaborative Co-Teachers are opening up Google Hangouts within the larger class to offer students a "place to go" to receive additional instruction and help during class.

Remember that 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 school counselors will be reaching out to parents with information about their children's progress with their online work. Parents are encouraged to contact their children's teachers directly with any questions about work specific to that class.

Leonia High School

A note for Thursday 3-19-2020 from Mr. Kalender:

We will be extending the Senior Scholarship deadline until April 15th. When we return to school students can get the signatures they need for service activities. Please do not worry about going to see people to get signatures at this time. If you have any questions about scholarships email Ms. Jean O'Neill at oneill@leoniaschools.org

You can find the available scholarships on the LHS Website then click on Students, Parents, Community then in the first column (Students & Parents) click on Senior Scholarships. You can also click on the following link to go directly to the site: <https://sites.google.com/leoniaschools.org/seniorscholarships>

Community Correspondence

Below are some new notes from our parents from all three schools. These notes are "a source of energy" for our weary bodies as we work through the issues related to the Coronavirus.

Note # 1:

Hi (teacher) at LMS,

I just wanted to thank you for your detailed email which keeps us "in the loop". I commend your efforts and your commitment to our kids and their education. Specifically, I thank you for using google hangout which definitely serves as a great way to mimic the classroom

setting. Since you mentioned in our email, could you recommend literacy resources for my (x) grade son?

Thank you.

I hope you and your family are staying safe and well and enjoying each other's company,

Best,

A LMS parent

Note # 2

Hello Dr Martinez,

I hope you are doing well as we navigate through these unprecedented times.

I want to thank you for the video message you sent this morning. It was a lovely start to the day as (my son) and I watched it together. It's so important to try and maintain connections at this time, and this was an excellent way of doing so. It was great for students to see your work station, and (my son) enjoyed seeing Spencer!

I am grateful to all teachers and administrators at both ACS and LMS for the work they have done to create distance learning lessons. In speaking with friends in NYC and Westchester County, their schools are not as organized as the Leonia School District. The structure and content is very much appreciated and needed.

I wish you and your family well , and thank you for your continued dedication to the students.

Thank you,

ACS and LMS parent

Note # 3:

This note is particularly rewarding. Many towns do not have the collaboration that exists in Leonia between the school district and the municipality. We are fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with the Mayor and other town officials.

Dear Mr. Kalender, Dr. Bertolini, and Mayor Zeigler,

As I see so many communities and institutions struggle in these impossible times, both with leadership and with logistics, I grow prouder each day of Leonia. I have been forwarding your messages to my brother who lives elsewhere. His response: "Leonia for President!"

Thank you for all that you are doing to support our kids' education and welfare, and to keep us safe and feeling more connected than ever. I wish you the very best as you continue to navigate in the weeks and months ahead.

*Gratefully,
LHS parent
mother of two LHS students, upstairs and doing their work!*

Note # 4

Again thanks to everyone involved! The online schooling has been wonderful! Teachers and staff and students! Thank you again.

A high school parent

Note # 5

From Ms. Stein - Director of Student Services and Testing

We are getting a lot of these notes as the counselors are reaching out but thought I would share one with everyone...

From a student "The first week of distance learning was a bit difficult to get used too, but as of now it's getting better. Thank you for checking up on me. I appreciate it so much. If I have any questions or concerns I shall let you know."

Note # 6

Dear Mr. Kalender,

Just a note to say thanks a ton to you and everyone at LHS for making this transition to 'Distance Learning' extremely smooth, organized and timely – it is evident that the Leonia

School District has been proactive and vigilant in managing this Coronavirus Crisis so professionally.

As both my husband and I are working remotely, we are at peace knowing that our son's education is ongoing simultaneously. All of your staff's exceptional efforts have created a sense of normalcy for our families, as it resembles a regular school day for our children. Our son intently starts his day at regular school times and is actively participating in all online classes by corresponding throughout the day with his teachers according to the set curriculum. The encouragement given by the teachers as exhibited through teacher videos and classroom discussions is phenomenal.

On a different note, the regular updates on COVID-19 provided by Dr. Bertolini and Mayor Zeigler have been highly informative, supportive and a consolation of some sort, as we come together as a community to face this unprecedented dilemma - would be grateful if you could please convey our appreciation to them too.

Once again, our sincere gratitude to you, your impressive faculty, staff, administrators, supervisors, office personnel and all those involved in making life better for our students and parents, as we embark on this 'New Normal' - so proud to be a Leonian!

Regards,

A high school parent

Note # 7

Mr. Saco, your team and the rest of the district are doing a great job meeting and responding to this challenge! We're proud of you all... keep up the great work!!

Note # 8

From an ACS parent:

I wanted to follow up with a message of thanks and kudos. ACS has been extremely responsive, helpful and so supportive with the homeschooling us parents are navigating. The video this morning was also very helpful to my children. The teachers have been so helpful - thank you all for your swift response in quite unreal times!

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

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.