

Status Update - Coronavirus - 3-26-2020

To All Members of the Leonia School Community,

I hope all of you found time to relax and catch up after almost two weeks of Distance Learning. I continue to be pleased with the efforts of our students, the innovative lessons and support systems implemented by our staff, and the support of our parents.

Leonia, Edgewater, Bergen County, and the NYC metropolitan area is the epicenter of the coronavirus in the United States. The number of confirmed cases and deaths in our area continues to rise significantly. Please take it seriously. Stay quarantined in your homes unless it is a true necessity. Going to your friend's house to do homework together or to watch Netflix is not a good reason to leave your homes. Even if you are asymptomatic, you may be carrying the virus. According to the medical experts, you could easily pass it onto someone. This is very serious and it has impacted us directly. No one wants to self-quarantine. However, if we want to slow down this virus, that is exactly what we need to do. Do the right thing for yourself, families and friends. STAY SELF-QUARANTINED!

One More Point of Importance: The coronavirus is a respiratory disease. Vaping has a direct impact on your lungs. Young people are getting sick from coronavirus. And students that vape have a greater chance of having more severe consequences from the virus. Even though some believe it's cool to do, vaping can kill you. Please stop vaping now!

Our first responders in this medical crisis - the doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals - are the first line of defense. They are going to work each day risking their own health because the healthcare professionals understand they are needed. When you see a nurse, doctor, or any type of healthcare professional, take a moment and say thank you for your service. This phrase is often used for our military members. Today, this phrase should be also invoked when we know or see the fighters of this coronavirus battle. Text someone you know and say thank you for your service.

**Ed Bertolini
Superintendent of Leonia Schools**

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.

Request from the County Superintendent DeLisio

I received an email from the Bergen County Superintendent Mr. Louis DiLisio:

“Bergen County Executive Tedesco has asked me to poll Bergen Superintendents seeking Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that school nurses may have stored in treating students. This would specifically include surgical masks and hospital gowns. If you find you do have some of these desperately needed items in your district the County Executive will arrange to have them picked up.”

We were able to donate a few cases of gloves and pediatric masks. According to the county office, Holy Name Hospital was in dire need of these supplies. We were happy to be of assistance as we fight this virus.

Driver’s Education Video - LHS

Mr. Cimo and Mr. Muller are the high school Driver’s Education instructors. The class is one of the most important courses to our high school students. They take the course very seriously to allow them to get their driving permit. We have seen during this period of distance learning that the students miss their friends and teachers. Both teachers tried to reconnect with the students with this quirky video.

Mr. Cimo adds, “I wanted to make a video for the students that would make them smile and take their mind off of everything that is going on. I wanted to get creative and had a vision in mind but needed the editing skills of Mr. Muller to make it happen. The two of us hope that our students will realize that when we do get back to school our time apart will have us all appreciating everything we may have been taking for granted!”

Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WnMhVU95v8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2dKoO5edBWEpfj7zeaG3SRNQrrfCYEI02A9qv2krsP50HkDPL9RKfmpY>

Email Update

One major headache has been our email system. We have converted to Gmail. Hopefully our email problems will go away. Thanks to our tech staff personnel - Tafari Anderson and Uzma Abbass - for making this arduous task a reality. Information is still migrating to GMail.

Ms. Almeida has developed a spirit week for all of our ACS students -

ACS students- participate in the week's events- send photos to me edward.bertolini@leoniaschools.org so I can share with the community.

ACS
Spring Spirit Week from Home!
March 30 – April 3

Let's continue to unite as WEVENGERS while we keep learning from home!

We challenge you to complete each activity!

Share your activities pics with family and friends!

STAY Positive, Active & Healthy!

PJ Monday	Get comfy and read a book to your family or pet in your Pjs! Have a pajama game time!
Go Green Tuesday	Wear green and get Outdoors-observe nature! Indoors-research and do a simple science experiment, research about spring in our region!
Work it Out Wellness Wednesday	Wear your work out clothes and move your body, mind, and spirit! Do some mindfulness poses and make one up as a family! Create a family game to play!
Throwback Thursday	Watch a show or movie that was made before 1990. Listen to a song from each era before 2000. Look at old photo albums and share your memories together! Have a decades dance party!
Fun & Wacky Friday	Wear the colors that make you happy! Make your hair wacky! Have a family dance off! Have a laughing contest! Read a funny story together!

Teacher Comments

I have been in contact with many members of our staff. Teachers have indicated to me how proud they are of their students. I have included some of these comments:

Teacher # 1

Hi Dr B,

I am doing well. I have finally gotten to a point that I am not feeling so overwhelmed; establishing a routine really helped. I have to tell you, I am mighty proud of my students, they have all been doing their work, and outside of a few small bumps here and there, they have been responding well. Thank you so much for checking in on me.

A high school teacher

Teacher # 2

Hello Mr. Bertolini!

I'm doing really well! Thanks for asking. School just ended; and today was a great day. I had an online video critique with my AP class, and my other classes are beginning to work on final copies

of things we've spent the past week sketching and discussing  It's nice that I can be with my kids but also work outside in the sunshine.

A high school teacher

Community Correspondence

Below are some new notes from our parents from all three schools. I am so pleased that the efforts of our teachers and support staff are being recognized by our parents. These notes are "a source of energy" for our weary bodies as we work through the issues related to the Coronavirus.

Note # 1

Mr. Servis,

My name is (xxxx) and I am the mother of a 5th grader in (Teacher's) classroom. The transition to home learning, given current circumstances, have truly been eased for my son given the foundation that (Teacher) has set in his classroom and all the thorough preparation made. It is in this week and a half working with my son, that I see all the importance of the structure (the teacher) has implemented. I want to thank (the teacher) and his staff for all the tremendous work and commitment dedicated to working with students like my son.

Sincerely

An ACS parent

Previous Information Unchanged
From Earlier Updates:

For other information from previous Daily Updates, please go to Leoniaschools.org and click on COVID-19 UPDATES

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).

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 Stein
Director of Student Services

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

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 Dr. Bertolini at bertolini@leoniaschools.org

Computer Distribution

As of today, we have lent out over 300 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.

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.

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)

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.

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.