

Status Update - Coronavirus - 3-20-2020

To All Members of the Leonia School Community,

We have concluded our first week of Distance Learning. Again, thanks to everyone for making this first week a successful one. These are difficult times and we need to continue to support each other.

As we approach our first weeknd, please understand that our staff needs some time to take care of themselves and their families. Emails can be sent but a response may be delayed until Monday. I thank you for your cooperation on this topic.

Pages 8-12 has 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.

Middle School and High School - Grades and Marking Periods

No update as of today - From yesterday -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

- **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, 3-20-2020 from the Director of Special Services Mr. Servis:

Good afternoon,

Today's update is aimed at bringing a little positivity into all our lives. Below are messages my staff and I have received from parents this past week. Distance Learning has its challenges, but people are making the best of it! At the same time, I am aware that our IEP students are probably struggling more than most students. Please contact your child's teacher, case manager, and/or me if you need additional support for your child. We will work together to solve any issues.

Meanwhile, let's all enjoy the upcoming weekend and be grateful for everything we *do* have going for us during this unprecedented time.

I am also available via email or phone at 201-815-4160. Thank you and be well,

Thank you and be well,

Anthony Servis

Note #1

Greetings and hope this email finds you and your families well.

I wanted to say a big THANK YOU for all the assistance _____ has received! We wanted to express how wonderful Ms _____ support has been during these challenging times. She has been amazing and now appreciate even more what she does on a day to day basis with our kids. We're forever grateful to you all!!

Thank you and please be safe!

A parent

Note #2

I wanted to say a big THANK YOU for all the assistance (my daughter)has received! We wanted to express how wonderful (the teacher) support has been during these challenging times. She has been amazing and now appreciate even more what she does on a day to day basis with our kids. We're forever grateful to you all!!

Thank you and please be safe!

Note # 3

I just wanted to send you a little note to tell you how amazing (my daughter's) team at ACS has been during this time. I have heard from everyone making sure she is ok offering many ways to help keep her busy supporting her in any way. You really have a great special ed department in Leonia. Job well done to all during a very stressful time. My child is definitely getting all she needs to be successful along with her goals in her IEP and I'm truly thankful.

Thank you all for your hard work.

Happy Friday!

A parent

Individual School Update - Thursday, March 19, 2020:

Anna C. Scott School

A note for Friday 3-20-2020 from Dr. Martinez:

Today we continued our regularly scheduled Friday camp fires. Ms. Almeida, Mr. Babos, MS. Jufer virtually presented the ACS song and lessons on TRACK .

Teachers continue to post assignments and resources. They provide on going feedback to students and parents. When needed teachers and administration make phone calls to assist parents and answer questions.

Teachers and coaches are meeting virtually to make consistent plans for our additional week of long distant learning.

We are asking parents to continue to send feedback and questions. We are discussing all feedback and we are trying to be responsive and adjust to parent suggestions and needs. We thank everyone for their many supportive comments.

Leonia Middle School

A note for Friday 3-20-2020 from Mr. Saco

HAPPY FRIDAY!

LMS students and teachers are logged in and working hard in their “virtual classrooms.” LMS teachers have posted daily videos of themselves talking directly to their students about the day's learning activities. Language Arts story Read-Alouds are happening in Google Hangouts. These are exciting and fun new things teachers are doing to remain connected to our students.

Mr. Saco and Ms. King are updating our LMS Announcements Page every day. The Announcements Page is our daily system for delivering important messages to our entire student community. It is one of our standard daily routines, and one we think is important to continue using during this not-so-standard time. Mr. Saco is sharing the link to our Announcements Page every day via Remind, and parents and students may also access the Announcements Page in our LMS App.

Remember to join LMS Reminders by texting: @lmsremi to number: 81010

Leonia High School

A note for Friday 3-20-2020 from Mr. Kalender:

This first week of distance learning has been as successful as we could have hoped for. Our teachers did a fantastic job of trying to make this as normal as possible for the students. With limited time to plan and prepare our staff has continued to educate LHS students with the same rigor that they would receive in an in-person classroom. The teachers have been experimenting with various tools to reach students, such as Google Hangouts, Zoom, Youtube, and various other technologies. The LHS students have been receptive to the new normal. They are working hard, participating in classroom forums through Google Classroom, taking part in video conferencing, and using other Google for

Education platforms to complete their work. LHS counselors and administrators are continuing our work to ensure that this year continues to move along, but is also working on scheduling for next year.

As information continues to come in about AP testing, SAT's, trips, and other things we will get that information to the students, parents, and staff. The best way to stay in touch and up to date with LHS happenings is through the Remind App. You can sign up for Remind by sending a text to (917)521-6799. In the message type @leoni (not leonia). You will receive a message from a Remind assigned number. It is not a personal phone number and cannot be used to receive reply messages. It is for the purpose of group text only.

In addition, general information has been sent to you by Dr. Bertolini via email. You can also find it on our webpage - leoniaschools.org

This coming Wednesday, March 25, 2020 the district will use a snow day, as reported in Thursday's message from Dr. Bertolini, no classes will meet. At the high school we will skip the C-Day that is scheduled for Wednesday. When we resume classes on Thursday, March 26th we will follow a D-Day schedule.

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:

Dear (Teacher),

Thank you for your email. We so much appreciate all that you and the other teachers are doing to provide continuing education for our kids during this very tough time. I'm so impressed by all of you and the ease of this transition for the students. I'm blown away!

Your kind words about (my son) are very much appreciated. He works very hard and he cares about his grades. He misses school – it's kind of funny to hear but also says a lot about all of you.

Please stay safe. I hope you rest this weekend.

Best regard,

An LHS parent

Note #2

Dear (x),

I just want to say thank you for all you are doing. The remote learning program is tremendous. Whatever your process was to create this as quickly as you did needs to be replicated once this terror is behind us.

As horrendous and difficult as this situation is, thank you for steadying the ship.

Warm regards,

An ACS parent

Note #3

Hello,

I see you've received many positive notes from parents in our school community but I just wanted to send another 'thank you' your way to re-emphasize how much we all appreciate what you're doing and what has already been done in advance! We have been hearing from friends in other communities whose school districts were nowhere near ready to respond to this type of situation. Many closed their schools with no remote learning ability in place and some did not even attempt to address remote learning at the time of dismissal. I think this speaks volumes to what you all were able to achieve not only so quickly but also very successfully. Our children, one each at LMS & LHS, have been engaged with their remote classes fully throughout the time of a normal school day which creates a solid structure for them, not only decreasing their anxiety but also decreasing stress overall in our household. Many thanks to you and to all of the teachers for continuing to provide an exceptional learning experience for our children.

Stay well and be safe!

A family from LMS and LHS

Previous Information unchanged

from earlier updates:

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.

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.

Special Education Contacts

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