

Status Update - Coronavirus - Wednesday 4-1-2020

To the Leonia School District Community,

The sun has returned to northern New Jersey. It's a beautiful spring day..... But it is not a time to believe it is a normal spring day. I am sitting in my office listening to Governor Cuomo of New York and he remains very concerned by the lack of seriousness by our young people in regard to the coronavirus. PLEASE follow the guidelines established by our local, state, and federal governments. Stay at home unless it is essential to your survival.

We all need to accept individual inconveniences for the safety and health of the whole. We will begin to return to normal more quickly only if EVERYONE follows social distancing and shelter in place guidelines. Healthy young people may be carrying the virus and can easily transmit the virus to more at-risk members of our community. Don't be selfish and irresponsible!

Please be safe and remain healthy!

Dr. Bertolini

SPRING BREAK

Monday April 6th through Friday April 10th

- **During Spring Break, all schools and the entire school district will be closed.**
- **No meals or computers will be delivered during the spring break.**
- **If you have any questions, you can email Dr. Bertolini at bertolini@leoniaschools.org**

Leonia High School College Decision Flag Ceremony

Congratulations to **Katie Schuller** on her commitment to attend the University of Maryland.



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

2020 Census

It's easy to forget about the 2020 Census with everything that is going on w/COVID-19. The funding that is being provided from the federal government to combat COVID-19 as well as our schools, roads and hospitals are based on the 2010 census data. The more Leonians respond to the 2020 Census, the more money that Leonia can receive. Please fill out your census return by paper or logging on to 2020census.gov. It takes less than 10 minutes.

Informational FAQ:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11vjA4uj8jf-VW8w9qElAVJKRyc32e3yCnhq3RAL5eM4/edit?usp=sharing>.

A.C.S. SPIRIT WEEK

Friday is Fun & Wacky Friday

ACS Spring Spirit Week from Home! March 30 – April 3	
Let's continue to write or WEVDIGERS 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 PJ's! 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!



Send me your photos for Throwback Thursday! edward.bertolini@leoniaschools.org Thanks!

ACS Update 4-1-2020 from Dr. Matinez

Today is Work it Out Wellness Wednesday. Students across all grade levels are discussing and practicing how to manage emotions. Here is one fourth grade example:

“How do you manage stress or anxiety? Create your own cartoon that illustrates a technique for managing your emotions when you're feeling down.”

Third Graders are in the process of researching countries for Social Studies Projects. Here is one example of a presentation a student is in the process of creating on Google slides :The Philippines is located in the Pacific Ocean, east of Japan. It is in between The Tropic of Cancer and the Equator which makes it very hot. The Philippines lay on a tectonic plate named after them, the philippine plate. The Philippines is the heart of typhoon territory, which means it could rain at any time. On average the Philippines can experience about 20 storms of the storms that come.

A tectonic plate is what makes earthquakes. Tectonic plates are always moving. When tectonic plates crash into each other, they cause an earthquake.

Typhoon territory is where it rains a lot. The closer you get to the center, the worse the rain gets.

LMS Update 4-1-2020 from Mr. Saco

LMS Geometry students have been applying their knowledge of functions to create Pet Houses in Desmos. The students really went above and beyond by investigating new functions that they haven't yet learned about, as well as using tools in Desmos to shade, change color and animate. Today, they went on a virtual gallery walk to see their classmates' projects and posted comments and questions. Click [Pet House Gallery Walk](#) to see the Google Slideshow. Thank you for sharing your student's awesome work, Mrs. Seligman!

Hey did you know that we are updating our LMS Morning Announcements to students daily...even during this period of Distance Learning? Once updated I share the link via LMS Remind Message. Be sure to take a minute with your child to check out the daily Morning Announcements. Find today's here: [LMS Morning Announcements](#)

Speaking of LMS Remind messages, please be sure to sign up to receive messages from me. Join the LMS Remind messaging class for all updates. Text: @lmsremi to the phone number: 81010

LHS Update 4-1-2020 from Mr. Kalender

A few times per week Mr. Kalender is sending a video message home to students and parents with important announcements. After the messages are created they are being E-blasted to LHS Parents and the link is being shared via Remind. Please take a few minutes to review the announcements when they are sent. If you are not receiving them and would like to, join the LHS Remind. To join send a text to 81010, in the message of the text type @leoni (not Leonia). You will then receive a confirmation from Remind that you are enrolled.

This year SIIP/JIIP forms will be completed through Google Forms. You can log into the LHS website to find the SIIP/JIIP materials under quick links. Please read through all the materials before completing the Forms. Any of the agreements that need a parent or mentor signature will be filled out and uploaded to the SIIP/JIIP proposal form. You should not complete the Proposal Form until you have all of the agreements filled out and signed by the appropriate people. If you have any questions, email Mr. Kalender at Charles.Kalender@leoniaschools.org.

The Senior Scholarship Applications can be filled out in Google Forms. The Form is available on the LHS website. Students can fill out one form for all of the scholarships. At the end of the Form students will need to upload any of the required essays. If you have any questions about the process contact Ms. O'Neill at Jean.Oneill@leoniaschools.org. The deadline to apply for scholarships has been extended to Monday, April 20th.

All students should be reviewing their course requests for the 2020-2021 school year. If you need to complete an override form today is the deadline to get those forms into your counselors. If you need a change made to your schedules, reach out to your counselor as soon as possible.

Students Services Update 4-1-2020 from Ms. Stein

AP testing update

- The College Board continues working towards preparing students for the advanced placement with free, live AP review lessons, delivered by AP teachers from across the country.
- To access the live classes and recordings, visit the [AP YouTube channel](#)
- AP online classes and review sessions are available by the College Board at <https://www.youtube.com/user/advancedplacement>

- These online review sessions are a great way to supplement your current coursework and prepare for the AP exams in May. In addition, students have access to additional resources available in their AP Classroom.

The College Board will release additional information regarding the AP exams on April 3rd.

Previous 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-uXzNWrvllnFIU

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 16th.
- There can be no tests or quizzes given until Friday, April 17th.

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 12th.
- We will return to distance learning school on Monday, April 13th, 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 13th if distance learning continues after April 17th.

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

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 Dr. Bertolini at bertolini@leoniaschools.org

Computer Distribution

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.

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.