

Principal's Log 2.26

Dear TMS families,

I hope you and your family are well. Recognizing the times that we are in. This message will contain two parts. During the first part, I will echo the Center for Disease Controls (CDC) advice for speaking to children about the Covid 19 Corona Virus. In the second part, I will discuss what you can expect from Tuckahoe Middle School's planning for digital instruction during our state-mandated closure from 3/12/2020 - 3/25/2020. As of today, school is scheduled to reopen on 3/26/2020.

The CDC recommends the following measures when talking with children about Covid 19 in this article published on 3/9/2020. "[Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019: Messages for parents, school staff and others working with children](#)". Its principles are valuable common-sense reminders.

1. Remain calm and reassuring
 - Children will react to both what you say and how you say it.
2. Avoid language that might blame others and lead to stigma.
 - Viruses do not discriminate, they can make anyone sick.
3. Pay attention to what children see or hear on television or social media.
 - Consider reducing screentime in general as it may be dominated by stories about Covid 19.
4. Provide accurate truthful information.
 - Some stories may be based on rumor or sensationalized.
5. Teach children about everyday actions they can take.
 - Stay away from people who are coughing or look sick.
 - Cough or sneeze into their elbow or a tissue that is thrown in the trash.
 - Create handwashing habits.

While the school building will be closed, our teachers have been working very hard to create digital learning opportunities for students. Having Chromebooks in the hands of students is helpful, but obviously the learning is going to look different. Our teachers will be flexible with expectations as they create and post assignments for students online. Families can expect planned activities each day. Students must visit the Google Classrooms of all of their teachers to access this work. Distance learning will look different than traditional learning. But, based on the plans that teachers have created and the documents that they have already posted. We are ready to provide this alternate instructional experience. Teachers will be available during school hours for questions via email and I can be reached at stiefelg@tuckahoeschools.org. Although

these are difficult and stressful times, I am exceedingly impressed and grateful for the way our teachers and staff have risen to this challenge in such a short amount of time. It's great to be a part of this learning community. We know it won't be perfect, but we will be flexible, helpful and responsive along the way to ensure a positive learning experience during this mandated closure.

Stay Healthy,
Greg Stiefel, Principal

<https://twitter.com/GregStiefel>

Be sure to check out our website for PTA flyers, calendar snapshots, and other reminders. http://tms.tuckahoeschools.org/201718_weekly_enewsletter