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POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL

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March 13, 2020

Dear Pocantico Hills Families,

This morning, more than 50 superintendents from the Lower Hudson Valley met with New York State officials, Senator Mayer, Chancellor Rosa and the interim Commissioner of Education, Shannon Tahoe to discuss the public health concern that the coronavirus COVID-19 poses to our communities and our schools. In this meeting, there was a collective concern for the safety of our students, staff, and our respective communities. We believe that immediate action is necessary.

The Pocantico Hills CSD will be closed on Monday, March 16, 2020 for a staff conference day and Tuesday, March 17, 2020 as an emergency school closing day. This school closure will be consistent with the model of social distancing that has been recommended by the CDC and many medical professionals. There are many unanswered questions for school districts at this time; both as they relate to the potential for the spread of COVID-19 within our schools, as well as numerous logistical implications.

As a region, it is our expectation that we will obtain further guidance from New York State related to our questions and concerns during this temporary closure. Based upon the information available on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 the status of the school closing will be re-evaluated. **It is my full expectation that our elected officials will recognize the severity of this situation and as a result officially close schools through 3/27/20.** If this does not occur, the Pocantico Hills CSD will, on our own authority, remain closed until 3/30/2020.

During this time period the campus is closed and all transportation and after school activities are canceled.

We understand the challenges and hardships that this decision may pose for our families. Please trust that this was not an easy decision for any school district. However, we are at a critical juncture for the greater good of our school community and that of the people of New York.

We remain committed to sharing any further developments as they are available. During this critical time our continued partnership and care for one another is essential to successfully navigating this challenge.

Please find a letter from Principal Brown [here](#). This correspondence includes important information on the homebased instructional practices which will begin on 3/18. Additional guidance will be provided directly from respective classroom teachers in this regard.

I will continue to keep you all fully updated as this situation continues to evolve.

My best regards,

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