



LEARNING • ACHIEVEMENT • GROWTH • DIRECTION



POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL

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April 1, 2020

Dear Pocantico Families,

I hope that this message finds you well and adjusting to our new normal and social distancing practices. I am adapting to my expanded role at home now, which includes making dinner for my family and entertaining my father-in-law via FaceTime. I "see" him now more than ever!

Since the governor closed schools until 4/15/2020, there has been much discussion regarding Spring Break. To be clear, we will be complying with the governor's directive that schools must ensure a continuation of education through 4/15/2020. To comply with the governor's directive and fulfill our legal obligation to provide "alternative instructional options" during this time, our teachers will continue to provide remote, home-based instruction in the same manner that we have employed to date. As planned, we are excited to engage our students by providing a variety of traditional, enriched and extended learning experiences. Teachers will reach out directly with specific assignments and directions. Additionally, all meal service and childcare practices will run as normal.

I know that many families have expressed that they are ready for time away from schoolwork and are looking forward to simply focusing on being part of a family. Additionally, many of you have expressed your desire, intent and legal right to exercise your religious beliefs during Passover and Holy Week among other special and important observations. As always, we support your right to make choices that are in the best interests of families. As such, no student will be penalized for not accessing or completing work during this time as a result of these practices. It should also be noted that many of our educators will be involved in religious observances. With this in mind I ask all of us to be mindful of one another and understand if emails or calls are not returned immediately.

This is an extremely demanding time in our history, but we are meeting this challenge head-on. Nowhere is this more reflective than in Pocantico Hills where our staff is dedicated to the well-being of our students and community. I know that I speak for all of us when I say how proud I am of our teachers, support staff and administration. I am sure you can see how hard they are working and how committed they are to make sure your children continue to get a first-rate education. Additionally, it is important to recognize the Board of Education for their unwavering focus, understanding and belief in us all. Remember, they do this for fun 😊.

Just recently, I was asked if I was sorry to be here at Pocantico during this time. My immediate answer was, "absolutely not." It is my privilege and honor to serve a community that is so supportive, not only of our students and school but of one another.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of #teampocanticohills.

With great respect,

Rich