



ANNA SCIACCA  
SUPERINTENDENT

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March 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Members of the Garfield School Community:

County Executive James Tedesco has ordered the closing of all county public schools beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 in response to the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in Bergen County. We all understand that this is an unprecedented situation and it is important that we remain strong, follow the guidelines for staying healthy, and support one another as we work through this crisis.

**Remote learning days will begin on Monday, March 16, 2020.** The District is equipped to provide a valuable learning experience through both virtual learning and the completion of the prepared paper-based materials. For grades K to 12, this includes assignments for Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies, World Language, Art, Music, Health, Technology and PE.

Remote learning lessons can be found on the district website: [www.gboe.org](http://www.gboe.org) under **REMOTE LEARNING** on the far right of the purple tab. The lessons are also linked to the school websites and teacher websites for grades PreK-12. **All staff members will be working remotely from home and will be available via email communication.**

**PRE-K**

ECLC AND GPPA 1 ( 3 Saints) : Learning packets will be available for pick up at the school on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

GPPA 3 (Head Start): packets have already been distributed. If you do not have the packet, please contact the school to make the necessary arrangements.

**GRADES K-5**

**On Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, all students should begin to access remote learning assignments by checking the appropriate grade level under the remote learning tab. Students should complete the work designated as Day 1 on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and then continue with the work assigned for each day.**

Student learning packets will be available for pick up at your child's school on TUESDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. *Please note that due to the massive volume of copies required, the district will not have the packets available on Monday. Students will be responsible to complete all work in the packet beginning with Day 1.*

Teachers, counselors, social workers, behaviorists will be available to respond to any questions, provide academic assistance as well as social emotional guidance.

***The completed work for each day will serve as documentation for attendance until further notice.***

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## GRADES 6-12

On Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, all students should begin to access remote learning assignments by checking the appropriate grade level under the remote learning tab. Students should complete the work designated as Day 1 on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and then continue with the work assigned for each day.

Student laptops will be used to complete remote learning assignments.

Please note students should be completing lessons as assigned daily for ALL subjects and submitting work to the teacher electronically.

Teachers, counselors, social workers, behaviorists will be available to respond to any questions, provide academic assistance as well as social emotional guidance.

*The completed work for each day will serve as documentation for attendance until further notice.*

## COMPUTER DISTRIBUTION TO STUDENTS IN GRADE 5-12

The district will continue to make laptop devices available for students in grades 5-12.

Please see the schedule below to receive one at your child's school upon completion of the necessary documents. If your child does not have a district issued laptop, please make every effort to pick one up given the significance of the device for remote learning.

***DISTRIBUTION OF LAPTOPS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-12 WILL TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 16-17-18:***

9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.:	School #4	School #5	School #6	School #7
11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	School #8	School #9	School #10	Garfield Middle School
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.:	Garfield High School			

## INTERNET ACCESS

We are receiving notification that internet providers, such as ALTICE, are offering free internet services for families that do not currently have access. We will investigate this in collaboration with our city officials and provide more information as it becomes available. Some smart phones can provide short term access by using the personal hot spot. We encourage you to be resourceful in gaining internet access during this period of remote learning and we will do everything possible to help.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Garfield School District is prepared to provide technical assistance and resolve any technical concerns including issues with district laptops. Accommodations will be made in order to avoid any disruptions to the remote learning process. Please contact the technology Director at [drigoglioso@gboe.org](mailto:drigoglioso@gboe.org) and/or call 973-340-5010, ext. 2231.

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**MEALS PROVIDED for STUDENTS IN GRADES PREK-12 WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE TO STUDENTS**

Meals will be provided for eligible students in grades PreK-12 from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. beginning on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and will continue to be provided during school closure at one central location : 3 Saints Church Parking Lot, 454 Outwater Lane. Lunch is Grab and Go and students will not be permitted to congregate at this location. Students in grades 6-12 should provide student ID.

**ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- Administrators are scheduled to be in the schools daily from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. until further notice. Only urgent requests for face to face meetings will be accommodated due to the risk of person to person contact and the spread of COVID 19. Please use phone and email as your primary means of communication during this medical crisis.
- All co-curricular programs, including athletics and field trips, are canceled or postponed.
- The Board of Education office will be open from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., however all appointments will be limited to urgent matters until we move past this crisis.
- Registration of new students for the 2020-2021 school year is suspended until further notice.

**AS YOUR SUPERINTENDENT, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME THAT OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, FAMILIES, AND MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY REMAIN HEALTHY.**

Please remember to check the district website regularly for the most current and updated information regarding remote learning as well as the reopening of schools. It is essential to practice good hygiene, avoid crowds, keep social distance, and seek medical attention if you do not feel well. Let's make every effort to get through this together as we look ahead to better days. I want to thank you for your support and cooperation during this unique and unprecedented pandemic.

Kind Regards,

*Anna Sciacca*

Anna Sciacca, Superintendent of Garfield Public Schools

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