

River Dell Regional School District

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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March 16, 2020

Dear River Dell Community:

This message contains several items of importance regarding the COVID-19 virus.

- 1) In coordination with the closure parks and playgrounds in the Boroughs of Oradell and River Edge, River Dell's athletic facilities are also closed to the public. During this health emergency, it is crucial that we follow all of the guidance available. Please do not congregate on school property until further notice. The quicker we halt the spread of the virus, the quicker we can get back to a more normal life.
- 2) This is an extraordinary time in American history. With so many unknowns, it is natural that we may suffer from anxiety. This is especially true for our most vulnerable population – our children. Please talk to your children about this issue. Give them basic facts, and give them access to official information if they ask for it. Follow their lead and focus on supporting them as this situation evolves, whether their needs are social, emotional or educational. Remember the children are watching. They are watching social media, news reports, and adult reactions. They are more attuned than one may think. If you need guidance on what to say or how to say it, use the attached tips from the National Associations of School Nurses and School Psychologists. [Talking to Children About COVID-19.pdf](#)
- 3) Please know that we will not be addressing every rumor that pops up in the community. We are simply not equipped to respond at the speed of social media. Managing rumors detracts from our ability to focus on the most important task of continuing our operations. The best and most accurate information comes from the school district through officially established communication channels which includes our website. We will communicate on a regular basis.
- 4) Finally, our first day of virtual instruction was a success. We did hit a few bumps and major complaint was that the network was slower than normal. We believe that the world-wide volume of internet traffic affected every user today. We would not be surprised if records were set. We expect that the virtual experience will improve each day and we ask you to communicate with us should you or your child experience any issues.

Together, we will persevere.

Patrick Fletcher
Superintendent of Schools