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March 14, 2020

Dear Northfield Families,

I appreciate your patience and cooperation as we navigate through the unprecedented chain of events brought on by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. It can never be overstated that all of our actions have been, are, and always will be in the best interest of maintaining the health, safety, and welfare of our students, staff, and community. I anticipate reaching out to everyone many times throughout this process, because new and unforeseen questions and circumstances are inevitable in these cases. Our administrative team will do everything possible to keep everyone informed regularly. To that end, I want to point out a few items that are worth noting at this time.

The closure protocol we are now in is part of a New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) requirement to establish continuity of instruction so that these closure days count towards the mandatory 180 days of school. This means that school is still in session, just not occurring in our school buildings. Our plan, as submitted and approved by the Atlantic County Board of Education, allows for remote/distance learning. Our teachers have been planning and working with the students to prepare them for the potential of a closure. As such, teachers will be establishing contact with their students to provide remote/distance learning throughout the time that we are closed. Through a survey administered last week, we are aware that some students do not have access to a technology device and/or internet connection. To meet their needs, hardcopy packets of the material needed to maintain the continuity of instruction is available to be picked up at school if the students do not already have them. Please contact your child’s main office to establish a time to obtain the material. Additionally, we are able to provide district devices to students who need them while supplies last. Finally, free internet connection has been made available by several providers during this time as well.

We are also aware that some families have medication that is kept at school for their children. Understanding that these medications will now be needed at home during the closure, our school nurse will be available at school from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Monday, March 16, 2020 so that these medications may be picked up.

In closing, I encourage you to access our district website for useful resources such as instructions for accessing Google Classroom and free internet access. Please contact me through email at pbretones@ncs-n.org or phone at (609) 407-4000 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Pedro P. Bretones

Superintendent of Schools