



MAHWAH BOARD OF EDUCATION
60 Ridge Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

C. Lauren Schoen, Ed.D.
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Assistant Superintendent

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Instruction

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April 22, 2020

Good afternoon,

As we continue to partner with you in this educational journey, we wanted to take some time to thank you for all that you have done during Phase I & Phase II of instruction to make this collective effort a successful reality for our students.

Using the survey results that we received from parents, students, and staff members, *Phase III of Instruction* is carefully designed to support our students from April 27 until May 15, or until the time in which we will be able to physically return to school.

In reviewing the survey results, valuable information was garnered to inform our planning for our Phase III adjustments. The accolades for the efforts and commitment that has been showcased by our staff's instruction is greatly appreciated and the feedback specific to live instruction, pacing, and workload is something that mirrors our staff members' and administration's reflections.

While we are aware that we cannot perfectly duplicate the face-to-face teaching and learning experiences for our students, we do know that this remote experience can match *some* of the learning and expectations that would typically take place during the school day. We emphasize *some* because we understand that our remote instruction is understandably not identical to our typical in-school experiences.

Phase III of Instruction - Reframing: Access and Instructional Decision-Making
(Beginning April 27 to May 15, or until return)

Continuing to Connect:

- Increasing access to video-conferencing
- Increasing access to video-lessons

Pacing and Support (to match these unique circumstances):

- Continuing modification of content covered
 - Essential content emphasized
- Monitoring student participation
 - Supports provided, as needed

Reflecting on Assignments and Task

- Maintaining current effective practices
- Integrating experiences that take students away from the screen
 - Experience-based/Exploratory activities

Grading

- Ongoing discussions are taking place within the district, informed by guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education.
- When a decision is made, it will be shared with you.

We know that heavy on your mind is: “Is my child going to be ready for the 2020-2021 school year?” Our educators are committed to teaching the essential items needed to prepare the students in transitioning successfully into the following school year. Further, when welcoming the students next year, we will identify each student’s level and provide purposeful support accordingly.

Recognizing the efforts that are being put forth from all involved, we have decided to embed “Independent Work Days” into our virtual learning experience. These days will be used for students to complete assignments, for teachers to plan subsequent lessons, and for *you*, our co-teachers, to be free from new assignments! It is our hope that, after the students complete their assignments, they can be screen-free and outside! The scheduled dates are April 24 and May 8.

Thank you for staying the course with us. Please stay well and stay healthy!

Sincerely,

C. Lauren Schoen, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools