



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

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As we have moved through each transitional phase related to our public health-related school closure, it has been important for our administrative team to communicate with you every step of the way. With our most upcoming transition into the end of the school year, it is understandable that you may have many questions related to end-of-year items, as well as our transition into our summer school programming.

We have compiled a list of “Frequently Asked Questions,” which can be found below. As we receive further updated guidance from our Governor and the New Jersey Department of Education, we will make necessary adjustments and communicate with you, as needed.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **End of Year**

1. What is the grading policy for the third trimester?
  - a. Please access the letter on the Public Health-Related School Closure website under the [Communication from the District](#) tab, for complete information about this process.
2. Will students remain off on Friday, May 22 and Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day Weekend?
  - a. We will follow the dates that have been identified on the school calendar. The students will have off on both Friday, May 22, and Monday, May 25.
3. How could I best support my child over the final six weeks of school?
  - a. The work that has been completed thus far has been greatly appreciated and some of the reasons why this process has been so successful. We ask that you and your children continue to do your best in continuing to put forth your best effort.
4. What community, county, or state supports are available if my child and/or my family are experiencing financial, housing, medical, or mental health difficulties during this challenging time?
  - a. You can access this information on the Mahwah webpage-under the Public Health-Related School Closure website under [the General Health-Related Resources tab](#). This tab is updated regularly with additional resources.
5. Will there be any end-of-year activities?
  - a. Each school is identifying the school-specific end-of-year experiences. They have and will continue to communicate adjustments accordingly. Thus far, schools have created virtual experiences such as virtual field trips, field days, etc.

6. When will I be informed of finalized graduation, promotion, or moving-up plans?
  - a. Our principals will be sharing individual communication with the parents and students in their respective buildings in the very near future regarding finalized graduation, promotion, and moving-up plans.
7. When will be the last day for students this school year?
  - a. The district will be using the last two (2) snow days at the end of this school year, which will adjust our calendar's end date from June 23 to June 19. In addition, the week of June 15 will be single-session days for instruction for all students and staff.
8. Can we end the school year early?
  - a. No. We must follow the directives and guidelines set forth by the state. They continue to govern the school districts in New Jersey.

### **Close-out Procedures**

1. How will my students retrieve and return materials (including school materials: textbooks, technology, library books, and personal materials: remaining belongings, medications) at the end of the year?
  - a. Information will be provided to you directly by your building principal.
2. How will my PaySchools Central (lunch/cafeteria) account/balance be closed out for the 2019-2020 school year?
  - a. All balances, negative and positive, will be carried forward into the 2020/2021 school year for the student.
  - b. For students that are graduating, or leaving the District, any balance will be applied to a younger sibling's account, if applicable.
  - c. If there isn't a younger sibling, a refund will be provided for a positive balance and efforts to collect any negative balance will be made.

### **Continuation of Program**

1. When is the orientation for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade?
  - a. Third-grade Orientation: Joyce Kilmer School will be sending a transition video to our grade 3 students introducing them to the building and staff members in the school.
    - i. A Google Form/FAQ will be created in collaboration with the HSO and shared with families to provide families an opportunity to ask any critical questions.
    - ii. A letter will also go out to grade 3 families welcoming them to Joyce Kilmer School.

- b. Sixth-grade Orientation: Ramapo Ridge Middle School will be launching a transition video for incoming grade 6 students and parents/guardians.
    - i. The Ridge will send transition resources and information to grade 5 students and parents/guardians during the week of May 18-21.
    - ii. Follow-up optional Zoom sessions are planned to be convened on May 27 for grade 5 parents to ask any critical questions.
  - c. Grade 9 Orientation will be held in August. Additional information will come from the Mahwah High School Guidance Department.
2. Will IEP/504 meetings take place?
    - a. IEP meetings are taking place during the closure. 504 meetings with invitations will be scheduled by building principals.
  3. When will assessments for gifted and talented programs take place?
    - a. Information has been sent out from the schools specific to these assessments.
      - i. Advanced Math Assessments will take place in school when we are able to come back into school safely.
      - ii. CogAT testing will take place in the fall.
  4. Are school grounds, playgrounds, and courts open to the public?
    - a. No. Our school grounds will remain closed until further notice, as per guidance from the Governor and the New Jersey Department of Education.

### **Summer Programming**

1. Will typical summer work/assignments continue for my child this summer?
  - a. As in the past, information regarding grade-specific summer assignments will be sent from the respective schools prior to the end of the school year.
2. Will summer programs offered by the district or housed on district campuses/in district facilities take place?
  - a. At this point, we are following the Governor's orders in regard to our campus remaining closed at this time. If new guidelines are given to allow for the opening of our campus, then we will. You will be notified of any changes.
3. Can my child attend summer school if they are not recommended so that they can "catch up" on work?
  - a. Summer School is provided to those who qualify for remedial support. We recognize that remote learning does not parallel to the brick-and-mortar experience. The district is committed to supporting ALL of our students. Understanding that students will need time upon return to "catch up," there are a number of questions about students meeting age and grade-level academic benchmarks. We have our in-district experts deployed to coordinate academic interventions as needed for all students throughout the 2020-2021 school year. That being said, we are also

committed to meeting the social and emotional needs of our students upon return to school.

### **2020-2021 School Year**

We know that there are many questions surrounding our return in the fall. Once we receive guidance from the State and New Jersey Department of Education, we will be able to provide you with more thorough information, specific to our transition to the 2020-2021 school year. In the meantime, our administrative team will continue to meet and create tentative plans to ensure a safe and successful return. Additional communication will be provided regarding how we will start the 2020-2021 school year as soon as we have received guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education.