



UPPER DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

School safety and health are paramount during these uncertain times. While we have continued to follow the recommendations of the CDC and Health Department with the cleaning protocols in order to remain open to provide in person instruction to our students, Governor Murphy stated in his address to our state yesterday that it is inevitable schools will close. We will continue to remain open, however, based on the Governor's statement, it is a matter of days before all schools close. In addition, it has been further recommended that we limit large group exposure of events involving 250 or more people. In adhering to the recommendations as we have, all field trips, career day, talent show, and other extracurricular activities including assemblies with outside presenters have been postponed through April 5. It is possible additional postponements will occur after this date and we will revisit this upon any further recommendations and attempt to reschedule things that have been postponed if we are able to do so.

As our district has formulated remote academic continuity plans to respond to the spread of the coronavirus and we continue to monitor developments, I ask you to please plan for the schools closing in Upper Deerfield within a short period of time. We are trying to remain open to help you as parents plan for coverage to care for your children as there has been no directive to close as yet, but, to reiterate the words of our Governor, "it is just a matter of days before this occurs." Based on this statement, school closure and the implementation of remote academic continuity could occur as soon as the beginning of this week. The governor, his staff, department of health, and the Department of Education, have made the message very clear they are only waiting until the procedures and protocols are in place to provide remote instruction and lunch in districts throughout the state before initiating the closing. The surveys school districts completed for the

Department of Education yesterday indicated that the majority of school districts are ready to provide this now.

We understand that closing for a day creates difficulty for child care and this closing will be more than one day, encompassing a time which we will determine from the guidance of the CDC and Health Department. It is imperative everyone be ready. Based on the guidance from the CDC and Health Department thus far, please plan for any closure to be no less than two weeks, perhaps even longer. With the potential for closures beginning as early as this week, we are sending this message today so you can make immediate plans for childcare.

School work will be sent home with your children this Monday as part of the academic continuity plan. A schedule of times for the breakfast and lunch, student work, and other materials needing distribution will be posted on the website and also sent home on Monday. In addition, in the survey information that was distributed, there was information about Comcast providing free internet for sixty days. I encourage anyone without internet to take advantage of this as we can do even more for a majority of our students who have access to the digital learning platform. Many of our students have a chromebook for their own individual use in school and this would enable them to continue to have access to the educational platforms used in their daily classroom instruction.

During a remote academic continuity period, the Seabrook School will be the distribution center for all materials to keep everything in a central location. For anything you would need when a remote academic continuity is implemented, the first stop would be to go to the Seabrook School. Further information will be provided as we work together as a school community during this period of uncertainty.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Peter L. Koza Ed.D.

Dr. Peter L. Koza, Superintendent