

Remote Learning Parent and Student Update <u>April 20-24, 2020</u> Week 5 of Remote Learning

Dear Students,

I am hopeful that you had a restful and healthy Spring Break. I think it came at just the right time. Being away from school, friends, and loved ones has been very difficult and it has most definitely caused many of us to search deep within our minds. It is my hope that you are taking time for yourself each day to just think, without a screen in front of you. Imagine where you will be six months from now, a year from now, or five years from now. What does the future hold? And, how are you taking time, now, without some distractions, to invest in your future? Now, is the time to re-focus and your teachers, counselors, administrators, and coaches will be there to help you do that. Our faculty and staff encourage, and really enjoy, when our students reach out to them for support, encouragement, or request help with a question. Please, please, please do not think for one minute that our faculty & staff do not miss you each day and wish to hear from you.

Over the past four weeks, everyone has stepped up. Whether you have participated in Zoom classes, worked in Google Classroom, communicated via email, handed in assignments remotely, or worked more independently than usual, all of you have put in a great effort. Keep working, one day at a time, and we will get through this together.

Governor Murphy has extended remote learning to at least May 15, 2020. Guidance from the state and federal government changes daily, so it makes planning very difficult. As a result, our school administrators are planning Senior specific events, but please know that we cannot predict future government restrictions and the course of the virus, so limitations based on what the State and Federal Government decide (i.e. social gatherings) will have to be enforced. More commentary about specific school events will be forthcoming in subsequent updates.

More information about COVID-19 may be obtained at the New Jersey Department of Health website or The Center for Disease Control website:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

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Please take time to check the 3rd marking period grades (grades posted April 9th) as we start the 4th marking period. I have heard some amazing stories of our students during these uncertain times, so continue to make us proud. Keep practicing social distancing, maintain healthy habits, like washing your hands, avoid touching your face, disinfect surfaces frequently, and we strongly ask you to consider wearing a face cover in public. There are now 85,320 cases of Coronavirus infections that we know of in New Jersey. Sadly, there have been 4,202 deaths. Please honor the lives lost by keeping those around you safe, yourself safe, and your families healthy.

Send Us Your Pictures

Please send us pictures of what remote learning looks like in your home. We will post the pictures on the school's web pages so that we can virtually celebrate all of the great work our students are doing. Please send your pictures to the following individuals:

Highland Regional High School: Ms. Kim Simon at ksimon@bhprsd.org
Triton Regional High School: Ms. Laura Greenwood at ksimon@bhprsd.org
Timber Creek Regional High School: Ms. Holly Bradley at hbradley@bhprsd.org

State Testing Canceled

The Governor of New Jersey and the Department of New Jersey canceled statewide testing this Spring.

Governor Murphy's Executive Orders #104 and #107

Executive orders #104 and #107 closed schools in order to promote social distancing and thwart the effects of COVID-19. So long as those Executive Orders are in effect, schools will remain closed. **Governor Murphy extended the school closures to at least May 15.** Unfortunately, we have to limit contact even more since Order #107, so we are limiting essential personnel hours and limiting who has access to our schools.

- Essentially, the school facilities will remain closed to outside Use of Facility groups for the remainder of the school year.
- Field trips have been canceled for the remainder of the school year.
- We are hopeful that we will get back to school soon so that our seniors can make some more high school memories before heading off to new adventures beyond high school.
- We are hopeful that our Spring student-athletes will be able to play in one more game.
- We are hopeful that our artists and performers will be able to get one more chance to practice and perform for others on our stages and in our schools.

Here is the link to all of the New Jersey Executive Orders issued by Governor Murphy: https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo_archive.html

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Athletics

The NJSIAA, which governs high school athletics in New Jersey, met and modified expectations as follows:

- They extended the Spring Sports season to June 30, but nothing beyond that date.
- If athletics are permitted to resume prior to May 25, NJSIAA will run modified sectional tournaments up to June 30.
- If athletics are permitted to resume after Memorial Day, NJSIAA will not run sectional tournaments. Leagues and Conferences may run competition up to June 30.
- No contact restrictions still remain in place, so no in-person practices are permitted.

Communication

Our teachers, counselors, child study team case managers, and school administrators are available each school day via email. Student attendance is being taken when students log into their Google Classrooms or respond as instructed by their teachers each day. Previous documents posted on our webpage detail teacher and student expectations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email your teachers or send a message via Google Classroom. I know our students are doing their best to engage in the learning opportunities provided by our teachers. If students do not engage or are struggling, school administrators, supervisors, counselors and teachers will be reaching out to students and families to find out what supports are needed.

Food Services

Since the Governor's Executive Order #107 and in the interests of everyone's health, we are going to serve bagged meals to eligible students on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 10 am and 12 noon. Bagged meals will cover multiple days. Students residing in the District can also pick up meals at any Gloucester Township Middle Schools on the same days. We are so appreciative of our cafeteria workers for providing this service to the community.

Technology Support

If you are having difficulties with your technology, have an issue with connectivity, have a broken/unresponsive Chromebook, or need a new charger, please call any of the school's main phone numbers...plus extension 4357

Highland is 856-227-4100 extension 4357

Timber Creek is 856-232-9703 extension 4357

Triton is 856-939-4500 extension 4357

OR

Email the technology department at helpdesk@bhprsd.org.

The IT department members will assist students, at Highland High School, by appointment only starting Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Contact the technology departments using the contact information above, anytime, and establish an appointment time. You can expect to drop off and

pick up technology devices and other needs, curbside, at Highland Regional High School's Library Media Center side entrance (entrance B-2).