



MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mrs. Janet Walling
Superintendent of Schools

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Mountainside Families,

I would like to take a moment to personally thank everyone for your support and feedback throughout this week as we made our transition to distance learning! This process could never have occurred as smoothly as it did without the concerted efforts of all of our staff, administrators, students, and families. These efforts, and ongoing communication has allowed us to quickly respond to questions and concerns, adjust delivery of instruction as needed, address technology questions, and create a smooth flow as we bring our classrooms into your homes.

I have witnessed amazing lessons and activities over the past four days which have fully engaged our students. These have included bedtime read-alouds for kindergarteners with Flip Grid responses; live streamed science classes for 6th graders; recorded step-by-step algebra courses; choice boards for Social Studies which has allowed students to respond in various ways; Fitness Challenges of the Day for physical movement; many teacher created videos; recorded morning announcements and much, MUCH more!

In order to assist everyone as we prepare for next week, I would like to share a few important items and reminders:

1. Please note that we are following the guidelines implemented by Governor Murphy and the State Department of Education regarding the closing of all public schools. Any determinations regarding the re-opening of Mountainside Schools will be dictated by this guidance and as such, we do not currently have an identified date for return. Specifically, Executive Order 104 states that *All public, private, and parochial preschool programs, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, will be closed beginning on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, and remain closed as long as the Order remains in effect.* We will continue to keep you updated as new guidance is provided.
2. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns regarding work expectations, technology accessibility, or other aspects of the distance learning program. This communication is helpful so your child's teachers can be aware of any aspects that may need to be clarified or adjusted in order to optimize opportunities for student independence and educational success. We appreciate your understanding as we all navigate this new educational landscape.
3. Visit the *Distance Learning Resources* tab that can be found on the main page of our website under the Important Links section to find a variety of useful information for you to support your child at home both educationally and emotionally. In addition, there is a link to our technology support and our teacher websites. More information will be added here as it becomes available. This site can also be accessed [here](#).
4. As noted by Mayor Mirabelli, and posted on our website and Facebook page, please be aware that **all school fields are closed** at this time to assist with maintaining the health and safety of all Mountainside residents.

We remain available to assist you and your children in whatever ways that we can. Keep the lines of communication open, support each other, and please be safe as we work through these unprecedented times.

Janet Walling
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Superintendent