



MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mrs. Janet Walling
Superintendent of Schools

www.mountainsideschools.org

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Mountainside Parents/Guardians:

I hope that you and your family are doing well. I would like to thank everyone again for your assistance with our transition to our Mountainside Distance Learning School and the varied videos, jokes, pictures, and even magic tricks that have been shared! These have helped us to truly remain connected even while apart! We also appreciate and recognize the accelerated learning curve that everyone has taken on with the use of technology at all levels. I have been continually reminded that my children are light years ahead of me in this regard, but I do believe I am quickly catching up. Who knew a week ago that there were even products such as Zoom, FlipGrid and even Loom? I sure didn't, but am VERY glad to know they exist and are easily accessible!

As you have seen, many teachers have implemented some new ideas in their delivery of instruction over the past week and they are continuing to explore ways to further engage with students at all grade levels. We appreciate the feedback and communication that has taken place between staff and parents in order to best tailor these aspects to meet your child's educational needs during this time. Please continue to reach out for support and assistance as needed.

Please note some additional items:

1. As mentioned previously, we are following the guidelines implemented by Governor Murphy and the State Department of Education through Executive Order 104 regarding the closing of all public schools and we will remain closed until such time that the Governor lifts the Executive Order and issues guidance about the resumption of public schooling. During his press conference today Governor Murphy stated that the re-opening of schools would not be revisited until April 17th at the earliest. As a result, we are planning for a closure until at least that time. Spring Break will remain unchanged on our school calendar. Specifically, our distance learning program will be as follows:

- **Today through April 3rd – Distance Learning School**
- **April 4th through April 12th – Spring Break – no instruction will occur**
- **April 13th – Distance Learning School resumes and will remain in effect until further guidance is provided from the Governor and Department of Education**

2. Please visit our [Distance Learning Resources](#) tab on the website for assistance with various areas. We will continue to update this location as a resource to help support you in various ways. Please note that we have added the following:

- [Reading Resources for all Grade Levels](#) – This location contains links to free reading materials for your children
- [Social Emotional Supports for Parents](#) – This area has websites created by our school counselors and others to provide you with MANY resources and ideas to address the emotional needs of your children while at home. *We know that this can be a difficult time for your children and your family as well. Please don't hesitate to reach out to these staff members, or the building principals, as they can share a number of local and community resources.*

3. Be on the lookout for upcoming Virtual Spirit Days to help us all stay connected as a school community! Our first one will take place **TOMORROW** - Friday, March 27th. Students and staff are encouraged to wear your Mountainside gear and share pictures with Mrs. Jenks: sjenks@mountainsideschools.org or Mrs. Goldbeck:

kgoldbeck@mountainsideschools.org You are also welcome to post the pictures on our Facebook page as a comment under our Spirit Day post – Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/MountainsideSchoolDistrict/?ref=bookmarks>

Thank you for your continued support and be well!

Janet Walling