



# MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 4, 2020

Mountainside Families:

I hope that you are all well and were able to enjoy some of the beautiful weather this weekend. I am writing to update everyone on the status of distance learning at Mountainside Schools.

As you may already be aware, Governor Murphy announced earlier today that all New Jersey schools will remain closed for the remainder of this academic year. As a result, we will continue with our virtual learning format until the end of the school year. While we are all saddened by the knowledge that we will not have the opportunity to return to our physical schools for the remainder of the year, we understand the need for this decision in order to maintain the health and safety of our staff, students, and families.

As I shared with you in my video update, I am confident that we will finish out these next weeks of school the way we took it on – with grace, with teamwork, with support, with laughter, with creativity, and most importantly, TOGETHER! Our staff will continue to maintain the high levels of communication, instruction, and engagement that have become a part of your child's daily routine, and we remain available to support you as needed both emotionally and academically.

In addition to educational aspects, our ongoing planning will also focus on identifying meaningful and creative ways to celebrate the special traditions that are an important part of your child's school experiences. We will look for the best ways to continue many of these within any safety and distancing guidelines that are given. Further updates and information will be provided as we move forward and some activities are already scheduled or have taken place. For example, Beechwood is planning a virtual Field Day for next week, and some classes have taken online field trips. It remains our goal to stay as connected as possible and ensure that school is still a special place to learn, even if it is physically happening in your living rooms.

I would like to end with a shout-out our teachers and nurses for their dedication and hard work that is seen all year long, and especially during this time, as we celebrate both Teacher Appreciation Week and School Nurse's Day (May 6<sup>th</sup>) this week.

Thank you everyone for your ongoing support of our students and staff.

Be well,

*Janet Walling*