

*Dr. Matthew J. Block* Superintendent of Schools

Website: www.livingston.org

11 Foxcroft Drive Livingston, New Jersey 07039 Telephone: (973) 535-8000 ext. 8011 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mblock@livingston.org">mblock@livingston.org</a>

March 15, 2020

Dear Livingston Public Schools Community,

Tomorrow we begin remote learning for Livingston Public Schools students. I want to be sure to recognize the entire Livingston Public Schools professional team for all of the effort that went into preparing for tomorrow. I know that our educators have worked hard to deliver the best experience possible for our students. While we could never replicate the normal Livingston Public Schools experience remotely, I am confident that the standard of excellence that guides our work each day will continue to be apparent as we work through this challenge. As with any new initiative, there will certainly be some hiccups. Please communicate with us throughout this remote learning period, so that we can address any issues that may arise in a timely way.

The success of our Remote Learning Experience truly relies on a strong partnership with our families. We are looking to the adults in our students' lives to support the work of our teachers by helping to motivate, encourage, and monitor their childrens' learning on a daily basis. Parents and guardians are highly encouraged to establish a remote learning routine each day, since these are school days. This may include having a daily morning routine, a designated space for remote learning, and minimal distractions during the remote school day. It is important to remember that routines are always easiest to establish early on in the process.

It is also important to reiterate the need for everyone's assistance in making the mitigation of the virus a high priority. Everyone is strongly encouraged to monitor information from local health agencies, and community sources. This includes making thoughtful choices about childrens' social interactions outside of school. The Centers For Disease Control and the World Health Organization are both recommending staying away from any large social gatherings.

This weekend I have discovered, as a parent of two school-aged children, that social distancing is challenging, particularly for children and families. Despite the challenge, all of the information we have right now indicates that we must all be cognizant of who we come in contact with so that our mitigation efforts can be successful. It is essential that we continue to work together and make thoughtful decisions to ensure that this physical time away from school will have its desired impact.

We continue to appreciate your partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Block, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Livingston Public Schools: Empowering all to learn, create, contribute and grow.

## **Informational Links**

Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for with Local COVID-19 Transmission https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf

What every American and community can do to decrease the spread of coronavirus <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.p">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.p</a>

Basic protective measures against the new coronavirus

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public

What is Social Distancing and How Can it Slow the Spread of COVID-19? <a href="https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/03/13/what-is-social-distancing/">https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/03/13/what-is-social-distancing/</a>

Parents: Take social distancing seriously, and limit playdates, other activities, experts say

https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/14/health/coronavirus-kids-social-distancing-wellness/index.html

Social Distancing: This is Not a Snow Day

https://medium.com/@ariadnelabs/social-distancing-this-is-not-a-snow-day-ac21d7fa78b