



# Hopatcong Borough Schools

Mr. Art DiBenedetto  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.

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## Hopatcong Borough School District Plan of Closure of Schools – March, 12, 2020

- A. The Hopatcong schools will remain open until such time that there is a directive to close from a state, county or local Board of Health, a different governmental agency such as the Office of the Governor or the NJ DOE. Upon receiving such an order, the superintendent will immediately notify Dr. Rosalie Lamonte, Executive County Superintendent.
- B. It is the intent of the district to utilize a variety of methodologies to provide an alternative educational program that meets the definition of equitable access to instruction for ALL students.
  - 1. Families of students in grades Kindergarten through Grade Three have been provided with two weeks of emergency educational packets for use should a closing take place. There will be an expectation for staff to maintain digital communication with parents. The packets for students include links to activities that are computer based. As of this time, we are trying to ascertain families without access to the Internet, that being accomplished by a paper survey. The packets will not be graded as there are varying degrees of potential for parents to work with younger children. If both parents are working there may be a more limited opportunity than if a parent is available during the day. In addition to core subjects, the packets will include special subject activities. All packets are designed to include developmentally appropriate materials for younger students.
  - 2. Students in grades four through twelve all have Chromebooks and lessons will be transmitted via Google Classroom by all staff members for regular education students and some special education students. Staff members in need of refresher training on Google Classroom have been receiving it through a variety of arrangements with peer instruction being the best methodology. This is being accomplished without any cancellation of classes. In addition to core subjects, all special teachers have been asked to provide instructional activities.
  - 3. Special education students will receive instructional information via technology and traditional paper depending upon their academic status and potential. Teachers have shared ideas about online instructional programs such as IXL which is a company that has offered its instructional software at no cost. Key to that software is the fact that core subject activities can be geared directly to an IEP goal. All students at the middle school and high

- school have access to Learning Ally and this will be utilized to assist students with reading challenges. Teachers who have developed a strong tech arsenal will utilize other programming and software that they use in the classroom and there has been a liberal approval of such programming for use in instructional directions and activities. Some teachers have given parents the opportunity to visit classrooms and observe activities such as discrete trial in action so that may have some potential to reenact it at home.
4. Related services providers are expected to be in contact with parents and child care providers to put forth directions toward activities that can be accomplished without the presence of the OT or PT. Speech therapists are expected to be in phone contact with their caseload and also provide instructional activities that can relate to cross subject opportunity for the accomplishment of Speech goals.
  5. Technology staff is ascertaining the cost, purchase and use of mobile hot spots that will allow families without Internet service to access online sites for instructional purposes. The district is prepared to make a financial commitment toward these if purchase can be accomplished in a timely manner. Google Classroom tutorials have been posted on the district website for staff members and also parents, should they be interested.
  6. Instruction to staff members has been delayed pending decisions on whether or not staff members can be at school. It is believed that instruction derived from the classroom and phone-ins from the school allow for a better structure and less expense to staff. There will be set times for teacher availability, coinciding with the teacher work day. Use of phone and e-mail will be stressed as communicative methods.
  7. Free and reduced lunch students will receive delivered lunches, prepared by Maschio's, the district's food provider. Routes to allow for delivery are being prepared as this is written. There has been talk of relieving schools from this responsibility, but the district will go on with the plan to create and deliver. There are four hundred nine students in this program.
  8. The district will continue to inform the community of new information which so far has been accomplished by Blackboard Connect, paper and video.