



## CLINTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*"Where Children Come First"*

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April 24, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

We hope this email finds you safe and healthy and that you are all doing well during this unprecedented time. This is our regular weekly update for the district happenings and remote instruction.

Our last message reviewed the methods and platforms that we have been using for remote instruction. As of our last letter, we had suspended the use of Zoom. We have been working with the vendor and they have developed several back end solutions to the issues that were a concern. The main concern was that students were required to create accounts and this has been resolved. We are sending out additional guidance to our staff for using Zoom for meetings. Should any meeting get interrupted, the host will immediately end the meeting and reschedule. Unfortunately, there are some things we will never have 100% control over, and we accept that there are limitations that we will work around.

Google Meet is another option and one our staff has been working with, with the help of our technology teachers. As we continue to look down the road for instruction, we will be increasing the amount of live options for activities such as morning meetings, small group lessons, interactive read alouds, and large group lessons.

Please keep in mind, that the content and standards addressed remain the same, regardless of the platform that is being used and that grade levels will differ in the amount of recorded and live instruction used to create lessons and activities. Staff are also mindful of the developmental stages of our students as well as the need the students have to connect with one another during this time of prolonged separation.

As you know, schools will remain closed through May 15, 2020, with no re-opening date set at this time. We will await further extension or clarification from Governor Murphy. We are aware that some states have already moved to remote instruction for the remainder of the school year, and while we will wait for that decision, we will also move forward with planning that is needed in the event of a continued, extended closure. Currently, we are reviewing the options we have for Kindergarten Registration, staff evaluation and metrics required by the NJDOE, End of Year activities, Graduation, Move Up Day, and a host of other activities that may need to be presented differently. We will provide updates to all of our stakeholders as we move forward.

Finally, keep in mind that we have numerous resources posted on our [Health Preparedness Website](#) and are constantly adding to those resources. You will also find links to all letters and announcements from the district, since we moved to remote learning. There have been any number of articles published regarding the use of remote learning, some helpful, some less helpful! This link is to an article in the USNews & World Report [The New Normal](#) that might be useful. In addition to information on remote learning, we want to provide some resources that can be helpful with the emotional side of this situation, as we all struggle with balancing helping our children, working from home ourselves, as well as concerns for family members and extended family. We will add more resources to the "Tips & Resources" section of our website [here](#). We have added resources from Hunterdon Healthcare and SEL4US; both offer crisis intervention information as well as information for coping with the social/emotional impact of self isolating, remote learning, work from home and a host of other issues that are presenting themselves.

Until next week, stay well and healthy!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Michele Cone*

Michele Cone, EdD

