



CLINTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

128 Cokesbury Road, PO Box 6, Annandale, NJ 08801

908-236-7235

"Where Children Come First"

May 1, 2020

Dear Families & Staff,

We want to begin by thanking all of our staff for their tremendous efforts during this challenging time. We also want to express our thanks to our families for their continued support. We cannot tell you how much we appreciate all the supportive emails. As we have said all along, this is uncharted territory and we must navigate it together. Our staff faces the same challenges our families do - working from home, kids home and needing help with schoolwork, developing coping skills for the isolation, and changes to daily routines. We do hope that if you are struggling, that you reach out to family, friends, counselors, or any of the resources we have listed on our [Tips & Resources page](#). Our nursing staff has been nothing short of heroic, with their efforts on behalf of our children and families. Should you need a person to talk to, assistance with food, or other concerns, we have listed numerous resources. If you do not know where to look, please reach out and we can help direct you. Together we will see this through.

Remote instruction continues to evolve every week! We are providing a mixture of recorded lessons, assignments, projects, and interactive sessions such as morning meetings. Student check ins and discussion groups, GoGuardian chat, small group sessions, and a variety of other tools are being used to connect with students. While this will follow a different format in each building as well as at each grade level, our goal is to connect with students. One of the hallmarks of the guidance we received from the NJDOE was maintaining equity for students. Although instructing your own child can present a challenge - for both parents from the private sector, as well as the children of teachers - we are required to be fair and uniform in our sessions and availability to students and so, we will be using a variety of models, where students and teachers connect.

Grading continues to operate on a flexible platform, with completion of activities and assignments being the cornerstone. Teachers may opt to use rubrics, grades/scores, completion, and other methods to determine student engagement and acquisition of knowledge. As we have entered the fourth marking period, please note that PowerSchool may close at times, as we adjust the field components to allow for rubric scoring. Teachers are maintaining records of work on their own as well. We are also in touch with North Hunterdon, to discuss the impacts for our eighth-grade students and will keep parents informed. As in our last letter, we have alternate plans being developed to address a variety of activities.

Each week, we will continue to update you with news and plans. As of today, the Executive Order remains in place, and schools remain closed. Should further information be presented, we will be sure to relay that to all of you.

We all miss the children immensely as well as working directly with each other in our buildings. We cannot wait for the days when we can be face to face again, and we look forward to that with great anticipation, but at the same time, we acknowledge that we need to make the best of our current situation and continue to reach out in creative ways! Remember too, that some days you just need a break! Flexibility is the key word these days. If it is a beautiful day and time to go for a family walk, then go! We all have a lot of pressures on us and we all deal with them differently. Your school family is here to support you. Enjoy the beautiful weekend and be well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele Cone

Michele Cone, EdD