



CONOVER ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tricia R. Barr, Principal

March 16, 2020

Dear Conover Road Primary School Families,

The Colts Neck Township Schools will be closed beginning Monday, March 16, 2020.

This decision has been made as a proactive measure so that we may provide the social distancing necessary to maintain the good health and safety of all members of our school. While we have not been made aware of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our school community, the Colts Neck Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools have carefully reviewed trends in the global impact of the COVID-19 virus. The determination to close schools has not been made lightly, and has been reached through ongoing consultation with the NJDOE and public health officials out of an abundance of caution to protect our students, staff, and overall community.

It is our intent to provide continuity of instruction for Conover Road Primary School students through remote learning opportunities that will be posted to our website and sent to our families via e-mail. New activities for each grade level will be posted every five instructional days, with our remote learning experiences to commence on Tuesday, March 17. Children are expected to work on assignments for a minimum of two hours each day. Families may choose which times of day work best for each household. It is not required that your child be online working during regular school hours.

Our teachers have developed lessons that are engaging, purposeful, and relevant while we are out of the classroom. Activities have been created so that children will have opportunities to access digital tools as well as utilize pencil/paper resources. Students will create crafts and projects that allow for fine-motor development; engage in exercise and movement breaks; and have opportunities to continue their learning in all content areas, including each of their Related Arts offerings. We want our little ones to remain active, enthusiastic, and curious while we are away from our classrooms.

It is always a good practice to establish a work area for your child to complete his/her remote learning assignments. It is preferable if each child has their own defined work space so that they may work with independence and without distraction. Make sure all supplies are organized

and accessible to your child. Students love to create “reading nooks” to make daily reading a more comfortable experience. Some have even created door signs to label their “home offices!”

We know that the uncertainty of these days creates a great deal of questions from our young students. As adults, we are so eager to receive up-to-the-minute information, and we often rely on news broadcasts and social media as a quick way to gather information. In our conversations with students over the past several days, we have noticed that they are overhearing adult conversations and watching news programs that may be escalating anxiety. To help parents in speaking with young children about the COVID-19 Pandemic, please consider the guidance offered by the National Association of School Psychologists:

[Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\): A Parent Resource](#)

Additionally, continue to review the resources and updated information made available to us by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Children continue to ask about what they can do to protect themselves and prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. We have been keeping the conversations very simple and upbeat. Children are reminded to wash their hands after using the restroom and before eating; to cover coughs and sneezes with the bend of their elbows; and to stay several feet away from one another. The following resources from Brain Pop, Jr. have been viewed by students to remind them of proper handwashing procedures. (Username: Pops1 Password: Pops1)

[Washing Hands](#)

Students in grade two have been seeking more sophisticated guidance. They are trying to understand the origin of the Coronavirus and the types of symptoms associated with this illness. They wonder about quarantines and future availability of food and other resources. If your child is asking questions such as this, you may want to first preview this video and then watch with your child to help guide the conversation. (Username: Pops1 Password: Pops1)

[Coronavirus](#)

Please know that all of us at Conover Road Primary School remain completely committed to your child’s academic and emotional well-being while we are apart from one another. While we are maintaining a proper “social distance” we are mindful that we are never to become disconnected from one another. All staff members are available to be reached via e-mail, and will respond with an e-mail, phone call, or Google Hangout in a timely manner. Together, we will continue the positive momentum of your child’s learning! We’ve got this!

This situation is certainly new to all of us, and while it may be less than ideal, we are going to remain focused on the positive outcomes that we hope will result from this situation. We now have some extra time to spend valuable time with our families working on projects, playing games, reading books, and engaging in conversation. These days have the potential to create lasting memories...let's make them happy ones!

I wish all of our families continued good health, stress-free days ahead, and the continuous support of our dedicated school staff. In return, I ask that you continue to remain patient and flexible as this situation unfolds and we refine our approaches to remote learning. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of our staff members as we would welcome the opportunity to support you and your child during the days ahead.

Be on the lookout for a second e-mail later this afternoon with specific assignments for students at each grade level. Our remote learning adventure begins tomorrow, March 17. Let's hope we have the luck of the Irish to guide us on this unusual St. Patrick's Day ahead!

Warmly,

Tricia Barr

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Principal