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March 15, 2020

Dear Ventnor Families:

As I have previously written, keeping our schools opened to educate our children and maintain their safety have been goals since the Coronavirus (COVID19) outbreak. On Friday, March 13, 2020, I sent you a letter regarding our school closure plan. Please note the following update:

School Closure Effective March 17th

- The Governor of New Jersey has indicated that closing schools statewide is imminent.
- On Saturday, March 14th, Atlantic County Superintendents, along with the Director of the Atlantic County Department of Health and the Atlantic County Executive Superintendent, participated in a conference call. We discussed the pros and cons of closure and also reviewed information provided by the Center for Disease Control and Department of Health.
- In an effort to join together to mitigate the spread of COVID19, we have made the decision to close schools effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020. The closure will last until Thursday, April 9th, 2020. As per our calendar, Spring Break is from Friday, April 10 through Friday, April 17th. At this point, students will return to school on Monday, April 20th.
- Note that the district will review all available data on March 27, 2020, at which time we may issue an update and revise our plan. This anticipated school closure timeline is subject to change based on new information or direction from the government.
- This means that school is opened Monday, March 16, 2020. Our administrators, teachers, and staff will be providing students with additional guidance and reassurance about the closure. We believe this will help the children with this unprecedented school closing.
- All administrators will be available throughout the day to answer any questions that parents may have.

Additional Health Closure Plan Information

- Any elementary school students who were absent or did not receive a packet on Friday will be given one on Monday.

- Teachers will also be sending home an information sheet that includes their emails and phone extension along with other key contact information.
- Students can take home any other materials or belongings needed or wanted at home during the closure.
- Specifics regarding breakfast/lunch pick up will also be provided on Monday. Note that this applies to families that qualify for free/reduced meals.
- Directions regarding students who have medication at school that is needed at home will also be given.
- Please refer to our district website for all future school closure information and educational updates.

We realize there are many different opinions about school closures. Know that this decision to close was made with much deliberation and consultation. Our staff continues to be committed to the safety and well-being of your children. It is our hope that by notifying you today, you will have time to make arrangements for your child's care during this closure. If you have any specific questions, please contact your school's main office.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eileen Johnson
Superintendent