

# Montgomery Township School District

*Creating confident, compassionate, and successful learners*

March 27, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

As we conclude week 2 of Distance Learning, I want to acknowledge the cooperation and collaboration we've seen among parents/guardians, students, staff, and our community as a whole. I've received a tremendous amount of positive feedback confirming the success of our current teaching/learning platform, as well as some suggestions for consideration to enhance what we're doing together. Thank you all for your continued favorable and supportive opinions.

We have been so impressed with your children. We have enjoyed the amazing pictures that have been shared of our youngest students working through their daily learning plan. (Check out the grade-level pages of our [distance learning site](#) for weekly slideshows.) During the first two weeks of distance learning we have focused on student engagement and community connection in order to give everyone the opportunity to adjust to learning online. As we move forward, our faculty will be increasing our use of pre-recorded teacher lessons, morning messages, live Google Meet sessions (gr. 4-12), interactive features in Google Classroom, and a few new learning platforms in order to move forward in our curriculum.

In addition to planning distance learning experiences, our faculty is participating in many professional learning experiences and collaborating in teams to provide your students with a safe and meaningful learning day. As always, we are committed to excellence, and we will only utilize new tools when they can be used thoughtfully and safely.

We will proceed with our distance learning through April 9, 2020 at minimum, followed by our spring break, April 10 through April 19, 2020. The New Jersey Commissioner of Education, Dr. Lamont Repollet, communicated in writing to all New Jersey school superintendents the following, "The Department has received numerous inquiries regarding the date on which students will return to school. Understandably, everyone eagerly anticipates the day when we can resume our normal schedules...We understand that some school districts have been advising families of anticipated dates for reopening. However as noted in the Governor's daily press briefing (on March 26, 2020), the decision to reopen schools lies squarely with Governor Murphy. We do not intend to assess the reopening of schools until at least April 17, 2020, at the earliest. As Governor Murphy stated, 'the decision to reopen will be based on careful discussion with our public health and safety experts, and with our educators and districts, and will be guided by the facts on the ground.' Therefore, we ask that school administrators refrain from speculating or announcing school reopening dates unless directed to do so by the Governor."

I'm sharing this direct quotation with our school community so you have current, clear, and consistent information from me. I encourage everyone to continue adhering to the Governor's directives in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic [https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo\\_archive.html](https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo_archive.html). Here is the link to the Montgomery Township School District website where you can find more information related to COVID-19: [COVID-19 Information and Updates / Overview](#)

Enjoy your weekend and I will continue to send an update to you each week we're in session. There are a tremendous amount of resources available to families during this time. In addition to public resources on our webpage, the list of school counselors can be found on this link: <https://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000127/Centricity/Domain/1/Counselor%20list%20and%20resources.pdf>

Sincerely,

**Mary E. McLoughlin**  
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Acting Superintendent