



ABSECON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

800 Irelan Avenue, Absecon NJ 08201
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Dr. Daniel J. Dooley
Superintendent of Schools

Tina Maruca
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Emma C. Attales Middle School

March 14, 2020

Dear Absecon Families,

After much discussion with all stakeholders, including representatives from the Department of Education and the Atlantic County Health Department, who advised that there are currently no positive cases of COVID-19 in Atlantic County, it has been decided that the majority of school districts within the County will remain open through Monday, March 16, 2020. Therefore, on **Monday, March 16th, we will have an early dismissal** for both schools, with the school day concluding at the usual **early dismissal time of 12:40 pm**. On Monday, March 16th, students will gather any personal items, in an effort to ease the implementation of Absecon School's *Health-Related Closure Preparedness Plan*.

Beginning Tuesday, March 17th, the District will be activating our School Health-Related Closure Preparedness Plan, by which our students will begin to receive instruction as outlined below. It is anticipated that this School Health-Related Closure Preparedness Plan will continue to be activated and our District will be closed through Spring Break and until April 17, 2020; however, the District will review all available data on March 27, 2020, at which time we may issue an update and possibly revise our plan.

Beginning with the afternoon session, PALS will be closed on Monday, March 16th until further notice. Additionally, any and all after school activities that take place on our campus are also cancelled until further notice.

All initial 3-day instructional packets have been distributed prior to the official activation of our closure plan on Tuesday, March 17th, Instructional packets are also accessible via our website at <https://www.abseconschools.org/Page/782>. If your child was absent, or otherwise unable to receive their instructional packet on the original date of distribution, they may also be picked up in the back bus loop area of the campus, at the cafeteria doors, from 1:00 pm through 4:00 pm on Monday, March 16th.

Starting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and continuing throughout our closure, bagged breakfasts/lunches will be available from 9:00 am through 10:30 am at the designated locations previously outlined (Absecon Schools campus, Holy Spirit High School parking lot, and Oyster Bay parking lot).

SCHOOL HEALTH-RELATED CLOSURE PREPAREDNESS PLAN

- **Phase 1: Days 1-3**

- All students Pre-K to eighth grade were provided with 3 days of learning through a paper

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packet. These packets are also available online via www.abseconschools.org/Page/782 as per our approved School Health-Related Closure Preparedness Plan under the COVID-19 tab.

- Assignments will be graded upon completion after we return to school.
- If you have any questions during off-site learning time, please contact the teachers via email between the hours of 8:30 am and 2:00 pm. You can access teachers' email addresses via our District tab on our website at <https://www.abseconschools.org/domain/142>

- **Phase 2: Day 4 and beyond**

- **Preschool through first grade children** will be provided with additional weekly paper packets and manipulatives to complete assignments for the duration of the closure, which will also be available online via www.abseconschools.org/Page/782, and at designated food distribution sites (Absecon Schools campus, Holy Spirit High School parking lot, and Oyster Bay parking lot) from 9:00am-10:30am daily. Teachers will also be reaching out to their classes during this time through electronic communication (email, Class Dojo, Remind, etc.), and creating instructional videos that can be viewed by you and your child at home.
- **Second through eighth grade children** will visit their teachers' Google Classrooms for information about the work that they are being asked to complete, along with relevant instructional videos, resources, online learning tools, etc. Middle School children have been using Google Classroom as part of their daily instructional routine and the younger children have been practicing for this scenario in school. All students have been provided with login directions and instruction that will also be shared with parents during this implementation phase.

Please know that the administration and I are taking every necessary precaution to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all students and staff members. As this public health crisis is rapidly changing, the administration and I will continue to monitor the situation and work with our State and Local partners. We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate this difficult and challenging period. I am very confident that as a result of the preparation, dedication, and commitment of all stakeholders, the Absecon Public Schools community will weather this storm and emerge stronger than ever.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel J. Dooley

Daniel J. Dooley, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools