March 9, 2020

Subject: No school for students – Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

At this time, I would like to provide you with another update regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We have been actively watching information regarding the COVID-19 and we have been aggressively planning and preparing should the need arise for closure of our schools. Be advised that to date there are no cases in our schools, and we continue to make every effort to teach our students the best ways to prevent the spread of germs.

As you already know, the decision to close schools cannot be made by the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE) as the decision can only come from the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH). In the unlikely event that schools are closed, the NJDOE has informed all New Jersey school districts that all schools will be allowed to utilize alternate means of educating students to satisfy the 180-school-day requirement.

I have been in contact with various school districts across the County and State and we are all collaboratively planning for this type of situation. In Ridgefield Park, we have been providing all teachers with training and discussing alternate means of providing educational services to our students in the unlikely event of a prolonged school closure.

As we continue preparing for home-based instruction to include virtual learning via Google Classroom, various online tools, and the preparing and planning of the curricula, we will be closing school, for students only, for one (1) day only this Wednesday, March 11th. I am waiting on further guidance from the County and State as to whether this must be considered a snow day.

For more information: Call the NJ Coronavirus & Poison Center Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 or the website: nj.gov/health

As always, I thank you for your continued support and understanding during this time of uncertainty and unusual circumstances.

Respectfully,

Dr. Angela P. Bender
Superintendent of Schools