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March 27, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy Friday!! As we wrap up the second week of remote/distance learning, I want to thank you all for your support while we work to make each child's educational experience as positive and productive as possible. There is a learning curve here for all of us, and as we move forward, we are adjusting lesson plans, assignments, and delivery of instruction to benefit our students, and will continue to update you as to any new guidelines as soon as we can.

MARKING PERIOD WRAP-UP (NEXT WEEK)

The third marking period ends next Friday, April 3. In order to allow both students and staff to catch up and breathe a little, no staff members in the district will assign new material or assignments the last three days of the marking period – next Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. This is simply a gift of time, and while it may not be perfect for everyone, I feel very strongly that it is needed for everyone.

STUDENT AND STAFF WORKLOAD AND MENTAL HEALTH

We are all overwhelmed. I see it in my own house with my two high school students as they navigate their school workload. To address this, we are working with principals, supervisors, and staff to develop school work schedules with time limitations for all grade levels and assignments. We will share these guidelines with you as we head toward the fourth marking period.

FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSING STAFF

On behalf of the district nurses I extend an important message to our entire school community on what we must do to help ourselves and our community during this difficult time:

It is vital that we follow Governor Murphy's executive order to stay at home. When we do this together, we not only protect ourselves and our families from becoming infected, we also do not spread the virus to others.

Please do not go out unless it is essential. When you do go out, remember to maintain at least six feet of personal distance from others. Wash your hands with soap and water before and after you leave home (at your destination if possible), and when you return. Wipe all doorknobs, and hard surfaces with household disinfectants.

If you or anyone in your home becomes ill, please call your doctor first for further instructions. Most Coronavirus infections are mild and symptoms may be treated at home. If you or anyone in your home has difficulty breathing, experiences chest pain, or appears extremely drowsy, and is difficult to arouse, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency room.

The school nurses are always here for you. If you have any general questions or concerns, or if you just want to say hello, please call or email your school nurse on school phones. Our nurses are available to you every school day and will get back to you as soon as possible.

We look forward to the day when we are all back together. Sending wishes of safety and good health to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Frank Ranelli', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr. Frank Ranelli
Superintendent of Schools