

## Darien Public Schools - Administrative Offices

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March 23, 2020

Dear Parents,

The virtual school gates fully opened today and welcomed all our students to school with enthusiasm and excitement. This morning, the district transitioned from its eLearning platform of practice, maintenance and enrichment activities to new learning and instruction through recorded and live lessons. I hope you were impressed with the schools' thoughtful scheduling and blend of teaching, independent work and breaks throughout the day. The day was a success and it ran very smoothly across the virtual district. Thank you for your assistance and support for the teachers as they innovate and implement these new practices. Together, we will learn what works best for our students. A few talking points from the day:

**Schools Closed through at least April 20:** This afternoon, the Governor extended the period of closure for all Connecticut schools through at least April 20.

**Videotaping eLearning Lessons:** To maximize the eLearning experience, your child's instruction involves video conferencing using a variety of technological platforms. These services are often provided in a group setting with multiple students participating in the video conference. Student names and video images will be visible to the teacher and other participating students. Other individuals in the home are not permitted to participate in or be visible on the video conference, or otherwise observe the lesson, other than reasonable adult supervision of the student. Just as in the regular school setting, without permission, parents and students are strictly prohibited from video conferencing lessons. Videotaping will ultimately comprise a teacher's ability to deliver live lessons. As you know, teachers are teaching from their homes. I ask everyone to be mindful of creating a safe space for our teachers to innovate with these new practices. Everyone needs to comply with relevant District policies, including but not limited those concerning the confidentiality of student records and acceptable use of district computer systems. The District reserves the right to remove students and/or families from participation in the video conference platform in the event of a violation of these expectations and rules. Student privacy, the confidentiality of student information and the ability of teachers to safely experiment in the on-line environment are of utmost importance to the success of the eLearning experience. We thank you for your cooperation.

**April Break & Graduation:** Tomorrow night the Board will consider April Break and establish a date for graduation. Details on how to observe the meeting will be posted on the District website by 3:00 p.m. tomorrow.

**Communication:** We recognize you are receiving a lot of information. We will centralize some frequently asked questions on the District website for you to access.

Once again, thank you for your assistance and support as we learn together in this new eLearning environment.

Sincerely,

*Alan Addley*

Dr. Alan Addley  
Superintendent of Schools