

Darien Public Schools - Administrative Offices

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April 5, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this communication finds your family in good health and that you had an opportunity to disconnect from technology this weekend and get outside to enjoy some fresh air.

Thank you for your support for our teachers and your children as our eLearning platform evolves. I continue to be tremendously proud and grateful for the school community's collective efforts and accomplishments using eLearning to support teaching and learning.

Here a few updates that you might find helpful as we enter another week:

- As you know, schools are closed at least through April 20. The Commissioner of Education is scheduled on April 10 to provide school districts with further guidance on topics such as school closure dates, grading and graduations.
- For our secondary students, the third quarter is being extended to April 9 and students will receive grades for the 3rd quarter. Superintendents from the surrounding Districts have been working together to coordinate (as much as possible) grading practices, particularly for the 4th quarter. The District is also working closely with our talented staff in designing a 4th quarter grading system that best meets the needs of our students and honors the body of work that teachers and students are doing through eLearning. A final decision on grading for the 4th quarter will be made after the upcoming long weekend.
- The College Board will be administering 45 minute tests for most AP Tests from May 11-May 22. The May SAT and SAT Subject Test administration were canceled. The next SAT is still scheduled for the first weekend of June but that is subject to change. The high school administration/Guidance Department will be communicating directly with families with further information.
- In getting eLearning up and running, parent conferences were put on hold. Teachers are working to ensure that students and parents are receiving feedback. Going forward we will reassess the need for conferences.

- The District has been following the disturbing incidents occurring across the country on Zoom. The District had already changed its default security and privacy settings in advance of FBI guidance and Zoom making their changes. The default settings and controls are designed to prevent such situations from occurring. We will continue to closely monitor this situation.
- The next Board Meeting will be April 14. Directions will be forthcoming on how to observe and participate.
- The District continues its planning for ESY and Summer School.
- The District plans on rolling out a Blue Wave Challenge for the school community. Details to follow early in the week.
- Given the next two weeks are critical to our town and region in controlling the spread of COVID-19, we ask all residents to stay off the high school athletic fields. The fields are permanently closed for any activity.

Thank you for your collaborative efforts as we educate our children together in the face of this public health crisis with the knowledge that there are brighter days ahead.

Sincerely,

Alan Addley

Dr. Alan Addley

Superintendent of Schools