

John V. Dolan
Superintendent of Schools



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Dear East Islip Community:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with basic information as it pertains to the closure of school and the services we will be providing.

- **Building Access**

Effective immediately, all district buildings are closed. There will be no access to any building for any reason. State and local officials have asked us to help assist in the prevention of the spread of this Coronavirus (COVID-19). Therefore, we cannot put the public or our employees at risk. We apologize for any inconvenience, but given the health care concerns about people interacting, we are complying with the requirement for a hard closure of our buildings.

- **Student Learning Experience During our Closure**

As you are already aware, the East Islip School District will be closed through March 27. Our teachers K-12, have created learning experiences for our students which can be accessed on each school's website. We encourage our students to access this instructional material and spend quality time each day on their studies. If anything changes and/or we are closed for an additional period of time, we will communicate any/all updates to you in a timely manner.

- **Community Support**

Beginning tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, at the East Islip High School, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. both breakfast and lunch will be available for pickup. The district will be serving Grab & Go meals to students who are eligible for free and reduced breakfast and lunch at the west entrance of the high school. This program extends to household children ages 18 and under. Security and staff will be on hand to ensure the orderly distribution of meals. Entrance to the building is not required, nor will it be permitted. District Officials will be there to assist and help in any way possible. Please contact Kathleen Cavallo at 631-224-2006 extension 6905 with any concerns.

- **Community Notification of Infected Personnel**

The district will observe all laws as they pertain to patient rights as we balance public concerns. Once again, please practice social distancing and stay away from gatherings. Schools are closed to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We encourage our students to play outside when having play dates or other functions. Students hosting house parties and other gatherings defeat the purpose of this emergency shutdown. We urge parents to have age appropriate conversations about the things they can do to help prevent the spread of this virus.

- **Support for medical workers, first responders and other essential employees**

During this difficult time, our medical personnel and first responders are being ordered to work, leaving their families and risking their health so we can combat the spread of this virus. It is their brave efforts that will lead us back to the normalcy of our everyday lives. Please look inside yourself and ask how you can help these brave, hard-working people.

Here are a few ideas on how we can help:

- Provide childcare/babysitting services
- Provide prepared meals so when they come home, they can eat
- Offer help with household chores, yardwork, laundry, etc.
- When you see a medical professional, or first responder simply give them your biggest smile and say thank you for your service.

It is my unwavering belief that in times like this the East Islip Community will pull together, roll up their sleeves and do everything in their power to help combat the spread of this terrible virus.

Ladies & Gentlemen, please heed the warnings of our medical officials to not have any social interactions that will only hinder the efforts of our brave health care workers, cleaning and disinfecting crews and our first responders. We owe it to them to simply get out of their way, so they can do everything in their power to keep us safe and healthy.

You will be hearing from me with an update on Thursday, March 19 at 5:00 p.m. unless there is a change and the situation warrants. It is time for us to unify behind our health care and elected officials. Simply stay home, stay safe and please keep the brave men and woman who serve to protect us in your thoughts and prayers.

With my deepest respect and admiration,

John V. Dolan
Superintendent of Schools

P.S. East Islip, I love you.