

South Orange Maplewood School District  
Department of Special Services  
March 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As outlined in Dr. Taylor's communication related to the COVID-19 virus, all schools will be closed on Monday, March 16, 2020 and Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020 through March 27, 2020, distance learning will be offered to maintain continuity of instruction for students in Grades PreK-12.

Clearly this will represent a disruption in the education of our students; however, our entire team of teachers, child study team members and related services providers came together to develop plans that will address the diverse needs of our students. I am deeply appreciative of their professionalism and dedication.

To this end, effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the following plan will be instituted:

- 1. All students enrolled in our PreK Program** across all sites received an Individualized Learning Packet (ILP) prior to Friday's dismissal. If your child did not receive an ILP or your child was absent, you may pick up the ILP from 525 Academy Street on Tuesday, between, 9:00AM-4:00PM.

ILPs are available in Spanish and French-Creole as well. If you would like a translated copy, please contact Mr. Johnson, Pre-K Supervisor at [ljohnso3@somsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:ljohnso3@somsd.k12.nj.us). Please include your name, student's name and school your child attends.

- 2. For students who receive instruction in an Inclusion Grades K-2 setting**, Google Classrooms were created by grade level and you will see the name of the special education teacher assigned to your child. This means that resources and accommodations and/or modifications were created to support the learning while distance learning is in session.

Parents of students in Grades K-2 will receive an additional letter that offers access to Google Classroom Platform, where the grade level assignments were posted.

- 3. Students who receive instruction in a self-contained setting in Grades K-2** may have received an Individualized Learning Packet (ILP), organized in a binder or folder, prior to Friday's dismissal. If your child did not receive an ILP or your child was absent, you may pick up the ILP from 525 Academy Street on Tuesday, between, 9:00AM-4:00PM.
- 4. Students who receive instruction in a pull-out resource setting in Grades K-2** may have received an Individualized Learning Packet (ILP) prior to Friday's dismissal. If your child did not receive a packet or your child was absent, the ILPs are available through Google Classroom for which students have log-in information.

5. For students who receive instruction in an **Inclusion Grades 3-12 setting**, Google Classrooms were created by grade level and you will see the name of the special education teacher assigned to your child. This means that resources and accommodations and/or modifications were created to support the learning while distance learning is in place. Teachers will be checking their Google Classroom and email a few times a day to answer any questions students may have.
6. Students who receive instruction in a **self-contained setting in Grades 3-12** may have received an Individualized Learning Packet (ILP), organized in a binder or folder, prior to Friday's dismissal. If your child did not receive an ILP or your child was absent, you may pick up the ILP from 525 Academy Street on Tuesday, between, 9:00AM-4:00PM. Teachers will be checking their Google Classroom and email a few times a day to answer any questions students may have.
7. Students who receive instruction in a **pull-out resource setting in Grades 3-12** may have received an Individualized Learning Packet (ILP) prior to Friday's dismissal. If your child did not receive a packet or your child was absent, the ILPs are available through Google Classroom for which students have log-in information. Teachers will be checking their Google Classroom and email a few times a day to answer any questions students may have.
8. Students who participate in the **In-School Education Program (ISTEP)** at Maplewood or South Orange Middle School will have an opportunity to consult with program staff via email and telephone, as needed.
9. Students who participate in the **Effective Schools Solution (ESS)** Program at CHS, may have received an Individualized Learning Packet (ILP) prior to Friday's dismissal. If your child did not receive a packet or your child was absent, the ILPs, you may pick up the ILP from 525 Academy Street on Monday, between, 1:00PM-4:00PM. Furthermore, a modified check-in protocol will be in place to support individual students and their families.
10. Students who participate in **out-of-district programs** will follow the protocol established by the individual school. As of today, the majority of schools will be closed. It is important to note that due to the District's use of unused calendar-embedded emergency closure dates, **TRANSPORTATION is NOT available on Monday, March 16, 2020 and Tuesday, March 17, 2020.**

Transportation services **will resume on Wednesday, March 18, 2020** for students whose schools remain open. Schools are communicating directly with us, our families and transportation companies.

Any technology related questions should be addressed directly through the supervisors of special education listed below.

### **Related Services:**

Upon students' return to school, occupational, physical and speech-language services will be provided as **"compensatory services."** Therapists will work with individual families to set up a schedule that is responsive to the needs of our students and their families.

While schools offer distance learning, our therapists are available via email or telephone for consultation and support. If you have a question, please send an email message directly to the individual therapist.

### **Paraprofessional Services:**

Dr. Taylor communicated with the entire school community *"that the safety and well-being of our students, staff and community members continues to be our main priority;"* therefore, paraprofessional services for students in need of a one-to-one paraprofessional are not available during the period of distance learning. If you have any questions about specific assignments, please use email to reach out to your child's teacher or case manager.

### **Annual Review Meetings**

Our staff members continue to plan for annual reviews. Case managers will continue to engage in data gathering and preparing for the reviews that will be scheduled to take place immediately upon schools resuming a regular schedule. If you have any questions, please use email to reach out to your child's teacher or case manager.

### **Reevaluation Meetings**

Our staff members continue to plan for reevaluations. While schools are closed, case managers will continue to engage in data gathering and preparing for the reviews that will be scheduled to take place immediately upon schools resuming a regular schedule. If you have any questions, please use email to reach out to your child's teacher or case manager.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please use email to communicate with us. We will do our best to respond as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura Morana,  
Mr. Leroy Johnson,  
Ms. Karen Thomany,  
Ms. Susan Ellis,  
Ms. Gerri Colon,

Out-of-District Program ([lmorana@somsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:lmorana@somsd.k12.nj.us))  
PreK Program ([ljohnso3@somsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:ljohnso3@somsd.k12.nj.us))  
K-8 Program ([kthomany@somsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:kthomany@somsd.k12.nj.us))  
K-8 Program ([shellis@somsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:shellis@somsd.k12.nj.us))  
9-12 Program ([gcolon@somsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:gcolon@somsd.k12.nj.us))