



# RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Ridgewood Public School Community,

As the situation concerning COVID-19 rapidly evolves, I ask that you remain calm, make decisions that are appropriate for your family, and be cognizant that our fears and emotions easily transfer to our children. While we are ready to educate your children remotely, we are not closing schools at this time. This can change at any time. The Ridgewood Board of Education is in constant contact with the Village of Ridgewood, and we are working together to do what is best for our community.

In order to support children through this difficult time, we need your help to make sure we are responding to children's anxiety and sharing facts. There are many rumors circulating, and I ask that you reserve judgment until you hear from the school district. We will get the information to you. We all need to be brave and calm, which will enable us to make informed decisions. As I indicated earlier, our children are watching us and feeling our reactions. Additionally, their almost unlimited access to news and social media intensifies fears. If you need assistance with how to speak to your children about COVID-19, please use the guidance from the National Association of School Nurses and School Psychologists. We are also here to assist you and your children through this process.

Due to heightened concerns from parents and concern for large group congregations, I am postponing large group activities in which visitors come to our schools effective Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. This will be in effect until further notice. This includes:

- Field trips locally and out of state
- Concerts
- Plays
- Athletic competitions and practices are cancelled
- Parent organizations who have planned events offsite should make their own decisions, but I suggest that they postpone.
- Large group night events, i.e. international night, team dinners in our schools, etc.
- Community school activities
- Youth sports using our indoor facilities
- Outside groups using our facilities

Thank you for your understanding during these difficult times and know that you will be hearing from me.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools

C: Ridgewood Board of Education

