



March 13, 2020

Good morning Ridgewood Public School Community,

In my haste to update the school community last night, I sent my letter that was drafted earlier in the day regarding closing schools based on information I had at that time. Last night at 7:00 pm, while I was at a meeting, the Bergen County Executive James Tedesco informed the public that all Bergen County schools would close from after school on March 13, 2020 through March 27, 2020. I apologize for the mistake. As I have asked everyone to stay calm, I must follow my own advice and slow down. The information below is very important.

Please monitor the district website at [www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us](http://www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us) for additional information and updates. We will continue to maintain close contact with health department officials and revisit the situation to determine if it is necessary to extend the closure.

On March 11, parents received a letter concerning how our home instruction process will work. Important information and links for the home instruction plan will be posted on the homepage of the district website.

Please note the following:

- To view the March 11 letters from Ms. Poelstra, click [here](#). Although schools are closed, meaningful alternative instruction will continue. While we will provide flexibility, evidence of student engagement with assigned academic work is expected, as long as students are healthy. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.
- For parents whose children are receiving special services, click [here](#) to view the communication from Dr. Fenwick dated March 12, 2020.
- If your child is having difficulty with technology, please complete the student/parent distance learning help desk form that can be found on the website.
- Athletics and all extracurricular activities will be canceled for the duration of the school closure unless otherwise directed by the NJDOH, NJDOE, and/or the NJSIAA.
- If someone in your household is medically confirmed to have the COVID-19 virus, please let your principal know as soon as possible so that we can get direction from state and local health officials and follow up with your family.

It is important to recognize that this is a worldwide health emergency. This public health crisis is not about a country, a world region, or a people. Comments of this nature are inappropriate and marginalize people even if that was not the intent. These are undoubtedly unfathomable and challenging times that will be remembered for years to come. We must come together, treat everyone with respect, help each other, and build a stronger community. Please check in with your neighbors. By uniting, we will get through this crisis and be better for it when we reach the other side.

Now is also the time for our students to socialize through technology. If we are truly going to contain



and mitigate this virus, we have to keep our children from congregating together. We must do our part to keep them safe and to protect the entire community.

Stay healthy and informed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Fishbein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and "F".

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D  
Superintendent of School

C: Ridgewood Board of Education  
Dr. Wayne Yankus, District Physician  
Ms. Dawn Cetrullo, Village of Ridgewood Health Officer/Director