



MONMOUTH BEACH SCHOOL

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Dear MBS Families,

Greetings to everyone in the MBS community! Although we are only at the end of our second week of school being closed, it feels like we have been away from each other for much longer. As we concluded week two of remote learning, I would like to personally thank all of the MBS teachers for their continued efforts in planning and delivering an educational experience that is helping their students progress with their learning. Speaking of the students, I realize how strange and difficult it must be for them to be away from their teachers and friends at school. Because of these circumstances, I believe the students will become more resilient and hopefully develop a better sense of appreciation for the experience of personally interacting with their peers and teachers beyond the virtual world of technology. Finally, I would like to thank and applaud the parents and caregivers who have been working with the children at home to help keep them stay safe while also giving much more than the usual level of support with their schoolwork!

The MBS administration has been in daily contact with the teachers to provide support and get their feedback regarding remote learning. It has been remarkable to see the level of dedication and creativity from the teachers as they continue to explore and utilize various online resources to help enhance the remote learning experience. As a reminder, the MB teachers are available to “deliver” instruction and interact with their students during the week from 8:30 - 12:30. I remind you of this because many of our teachers have young children of their own that need time and attention. Please keep this in mind if you or your child does not get an immediate response from a teacher from an email or Google Classroom question. Finally, I can assure you that each teacher is giving his/her best effort to meet the demands of these difficult circumstances. Just as no two classrooms look exactly alike when the school is open for normal daily instruction, the same is likely true for the approach to remote learning. For this reason, I ask for your continued support for the teachers and kindly refrain from making comparisons, especially on social media. As an experienced educator, I can say with confidence that the collective quality of our teachers’ efforts exceeds what you would find in most other districts.

Turning to the calendar and what lies ahead with our closure, Governor Murphy has directed that the earliest date for schools to reopen is April 17. Given that date is part of our spring break, the earliest date for MBS to possibly reopen will be Monday, April 20. Please understand that the official date for reopening will largely be determined by the Governor, so any date I mention for now is tentative at best. Speaking of spring break, the decision has been made to maintain the break as it stands on the calendar. This decision is in line with the rest of our shore region and the vast majority of the districts in the county. As a result, daily remote learning will be postponed starting on Thursday, April 9 and will resume on Monday, April 20 if we are not permitted to reopen.

Like all of you, nothing would make me happier than a speedy return to our normal lives at school and at home. In order for that to happen, please be sure you are taking the appropriate steps with regard to social distancing with your family.

Thank you and stay well.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore

Principal/Superintendent