

March 13, 2020

Dear KIPP Newark Families,

We recognize that many of our students, families, and staff are increasingly concerned about the COVID-19 situation. In the best interest of the health and safety of our students, staff, and the immunocompromised community we have decided to close all KIPP Newark schools as a precautionary method to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. As we shared earlier today, **all KIPP Newark schools will be closed starting tomorrow through Friday, March 27 with a return on Monday, March 30, 2020.**

### School Closure Details

This closure affects all programming at the school, including before-and after-school activities, all athletic and extracurricular practices and competitions, and weekend events. **We want to stress that no KIPP Newark students or staff have tested positive for COVID-19.** We understand school closures can be disruptive and costly for families. We want to do our part to ensure we are protecting the public and mitigating community spread of infectious disease. This closure will allow us to deep clean and sanitize our schools. As we monitor the spread of the coronavirus and receive further guidance from public health organizations, we will provide timely updates.

### The KIPP Newark Team & Family

We take the impact of closing our schools seriously, and want you to know that we remain committed to our team & family even if we are not operating within the school walls. Please know your child's teachers and leaders will still be working remotely, here to support you and your family in these uncertain times.

### Remote Learning: Student Work Packets

We have a plan in place for continuing rigorous academic instruction for our students while at home. Each student will receive a packet of material aligned to his or her grade level and subject areas. Each packet includes an Overview Page that indicates what they should be working on at home each day over the next two weeks. **Please do your best to pick up your child's packet on Thursday, 3/19. This will ensure that they continue to grow their brain while we are out of school. This packet will be critical toward your child's grade and attendance record during our closure.**

Families can access student academic packets in one of three ways:

1. Families can pick up their children's remote learning packets **from 10:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, 3/19 at NCA (129 Littleton Ave)**. Our KIPP Newark regional leadership team will be on site to distribute packets and answer any questions families might have.
2. We have posted all of the printed resources on our Remote Learning website: [www.kippnj.org/remoteteaching](http://www.kippnj.org/remoteteaching). You can access this website immediately if you want your child to get started on work.
3. In the rare case that you cannot pick up your child's packet on Thursday, it will be mailed directly to each student's home.

Here's how the remote learning assignments will factor into your student's grades, upon the reopening of school:

- **Elementary students** will receive grades for completion.
- **Middle school students** will receive grades in the Formative Assessment category of the gradebook, in each course in which they are enrolled.
- **High school students** will receive grades in the Homework category of the gradebook, in each course in which they are enrolled.

Your child is always encouraged to reach out to his or her teachers for support with these remote learning assignments during school hours. Our teachers will remain in regular contact with students, even while our schools are closed, and you can expect responses from your child's teachers within 24 hours. Our teachers will also be reaching out to check in on you approximately once a week, to make sure you and your family are doing well.

Additionally, our social workers and psychologists will still be providing services to students remotely.

In the event that our schools remain closed for longer than a two-week period, we will make sure to keep you apprised of continued remote learning expectations for students while they are at home via email, phone, and through the Remote Learning website indicated above.

## **Nutrition**

We know that for many families, school is the primary place where children get meals for the day and we will continue to fill that need even if a school closes. We are working on finalizing those details and will communicate updates as soon as possible.

## **Tips: Preventing the Spread of COVID-19**

For many students, the school closures may fuel anxiety about the spread of COVID-19 so we encourage you to strike a balance between answering questions and not providing too much information to create extra alarm. It is important to model calmness when talking about the virus to your children and limit the exposure to news stories. We have additional resources for discussing COVID-19 with your child on our website at [KIPPNJ.org/coronavirusupdates](http://KIPPNJ.org/coronavirusupdates). Please remember to take care of yourself as well. You might find this article helpful during this stressful time: [knj.news/ParentingDuringCOVID19](http://knj.news/ParentingDuringCOVID19)

Students and families should continue to take key steps to avoid infection:

- Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water (for at least 20 seconds);
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick
- Avoid large group gatherings as much as possible

Anyone with virus-like symptoms should be checked out by a health provider immediately and contact the local county health department who will provide guidelines on the next steps or other protective actions.

## **What do I do if I have medical questions?**

The New Jersey Department of Health has established a hotline (800-222-1222) to answer questions about COVID-19. Operated by the Poison Information and Education System, the 24-hour public hotline is staffed with trained healthcare professionals and can accommodate callers in multiple languages. The [New Jersey Department of Health Local Public Health Directory](http://www.state.nj.us/health/lh/community/) (<https://www.state.nj.us/health/lh/community/>) lists all local health departments in the state.

We ask for your patience and understanding in this evolving situation, and commit to regular communication. Please contact your child's teacher or school leader with any questions. During this unprecedented pandemic, we want you to know that the KIPP Newark family is here to support our students even when they are not within the walls of our building.

All the best,

Ms. Belcher  
Executive Director, KIPP Newark