

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Dear KIPP Newark Families,

Congratulations to you and your children on a successful start to virtual instruction! Everyone's teamwork this week, ranging from students completing assignments on Google Classroom to educators hosting live online instruction, to parents helping younger students log in for attendance has been outstanding. We're all learning together, so please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher if you have questions.

Health and Wellness of our Families

We encourage parents and students to continue following the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) promoted safeguards, such as washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds; covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues; and avoiding others who are sick and staying home, if ill, among other suggestions. **Please follow guidelines for social distancing**, and call your healthcare professional if you are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19. If you or a family member have been directly impacted by the loss of someone due to COVID-19, Good Grief (www.good-grief.org) is providing information and resources to support the emotional needs of children, families, students, and communities navigating new life circumstances. Please also don't hesitate to reach out to your child's school for support from a social worker or other staff member.

School Closure Update: Closure Extended Until 5/1

State health officials have made it clear that the safest place to be during the COVID-19 pandemic is home. Even though we wish our students could still be in school with us, our families' health and well-being is of utmost importance. While we all hope to return to school as soon as possible, we are preparing for the very real possibility that we won't return to our school buildings this year. We will follow the guidance of state and local leaders and health officials as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold. Based on their current projections, we are expecting peak outbreaks in New Jersey over the next two weeks [Florida is currently predicted to peak the third week of April], which likely means the stay at home order will remain in place for many weeks after that to help contain the spread of the virus. We will keep you apprised as we analyze the facts and make these difficult decisions.

With that in mind, our campuses will remain physically closed through May 1st. This closure may be extended further depending on what is learned in the upcoming weeks. While campuses are closed, school will still be in session and instruction will continue online.

Remote Learning FAQs

As a reminder, you can find our resource guide of Frequently Asked Questions on our Remote Learning page by [clicking here](#). If you requested a Chromebook for your child and did not receive one, please reach out to your child's school directly.

You may have seen in the news that there have been incidents nationally of people joining Zoom meetings uninvited. Our technology team has put together a new Help Center article called [Zoom: Best practices to avoid "Zoom-bombing"](#).

Packet Grades:

Thank you so much for supporting your students with the take-home packets that they have been working on since our schools transitioned to distance learning. It's time for us to "collect" those packets so that your children can get credit for attendance and for their Quarter 3 grades!

Here's what to do to make sure your child gets credit:

- By the end of the day on 4/20, you and your child will see an assignment in your child's Google Classroom titled "Remote Learning Packet Turn In Assignment."
- **Make sure your child completes the assignment by Friday, 4/27.** This assignment is a survey that will give your child the chance to share what they worked on with their teachers. It's required for all students to complete this assignment!
 - For elementary school students, it counts as a way of letting teachers know what students are mastering and not mastering, and for their Quarter 3 grades.
 - For middle and high school students, it counts as 25% of the homework grade for Quarter 3, for each class students are in. It's an awesome and strongly recommended way to earn extra points to boost GPAs! We also need students to submit this assignment so that they get attendance credit.

Your child's teacher will reach out between now and 4/27/2020 to talk to you about your child's work on the packet if you have any questions about the assignment.

Attendance: Sign on by 9:00 a.m. Daily!

On our first day of remote learning, we had 90% of our students in attendance! Our goal is to hit 95% attendance daily. Please remember students must log into Google Classroom and answer the "Question of the Day" at 9:00 a.m. and will be marked absent at 12:00 p.m. for attendance.

Spring Break: Week of 4/13 - 4/17

Spring break will continue as planned from April 13-17 and students will not receive new assignments from their teachers during this time. We strongly recommend that families follow the guidance of the State and do not travel during spring break. If your family has any questions over spring break, please feel free to reach out to your child's school leader and/or Director of School Operations.

To bring some fun and enrichment to our scholars' spring break, we are having our first virtual Spring Break Camp. We will be sending out 'BINGO' boards with age-appropriate activities ranging from Frozen themed yoga to gratitude journals to virtual tours of the National Museum of African American History & Culture. We encourage all students to take part in these optional experiences. Students will be able to submit evidence of their participation virtually to be eligible for prizes and will be able to discuss it with a teacher after break. Many of the activities are designed to allow for multiple family members to participate, if desired, so we hope you enjoy this next week.

We will also continue meal distribution at our designated schools with breakfast and lunch available to ALL children in Newark during Spring Break. Meals will be available on Monday and Wednesday, and multiple days' worth of meals will be distributed on each day. Please see below for details:

- KIPP THRIVE/BOLD Academies (229 18th Avenue) - Monday and Wednesday from 10:30AM - 1:30PM
- KIPP Newark Collegiate Academy (129 Littleton Avenue) - Monday and Wednesday from 10:30AM - 1:30PM

Remote Learning Week 2: 4/20 - 4/24

After returning from spring break on April 20th, all students will continue remote learning via Google Classroom.

We miss seeing your children in school, but we are proud of the work you, your children, and our educators have done to continue learning during this challenging time. Have a wonderful spring break and please stay safe and healthy.

Love,

Joanna Belcher

Executive Director, KIPP Newark