

April 1, 2020

Subject Line: Remote Learning, Phase 2 Starts Monday, 4/6 - Everything You Need to Know!

Dear KIPP Newark Families,

We hope that this message finds you well and that you are staying safe. We miss seeing your children's faces in our classrooms and hallways. We are all operating in a very unprecedented time in our lives, and this uncertainty can be disruptive and stressful. Please know that we remain committed to our students, our community, and each of you during this difficult and quickly evolving time. Although this letter discusses remote learning, our primary goal is the safety of our students and families, and we have included resources at the end of this letter that explain how to access additional support. Please make sure to follow the CDC guidelines here and stay safe: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Keep reading for updates on Remote Learning, Phase 2, which officially begins on Monday, 4/6! This email includes information about the following topics:

- Remote Learning: What to Expect
- Attendance Updates
- What if I Need More Things for My Child to Do?
- What do I do if I have tech problems with my child's laptop?
- Student Meals
- Standardized Testing
- Updates on COVID-19
- Additional Resources

Remote Learning Update: What to Expect

In this uncharted territory of remote learning with students, we know there will be hiccups and ask that we all approach this with understanding and flexibility. Your child's teachers are learning, too! Here is what the next two weeks will look like:

	What is Happening	How You Can Support Your Child for Success
--	-------------------	--

<p>The remainder of this week</p> <p>Remote Learning, Phase 1</p>	<p>Your child should continue to complete the packet they were given; the packets are also available online by grade level on our Remote Learning site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your child’s packet every day. If your child has already finished, there are resources on the Remote Learning site or you can reach out to your child’s teacher to keep growing your child’s brain! • Reach out to your child’s teacher with any questions • Set up expectations for work time and space for your child to work and practice logging onto Google Classroom by 9 a.m. daily. • If you do not have a packet, please reach out to your school’s Director of School Operations The school will work with you to make sure you have one.
<p>Week of 4/6</p> <p>Remote Learning, Phase 2</p>	<p>Beginning April 6th, we will begin our required online learning. Please make sure your child’s Chromebook or laptop is fully charged and connected to WiFi prior to that date. You can visit our Tech Support page on the Remote Learning site for instructions on how to connect your Chromebook to WiFi as well as options for free internet service at home if needed. Your child must log on daily by 9:00 a.m. and complete assignments - attendance will be taken!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure your child is ready to log onto his or her laptop daily by 9:00 a.m. • Make sure your child responds to teacher outreach (every child will get one check-in per week). • Families should ensure the proper care of student loaner laptops, which includes keeping them safe when they are not in use, protecting their screens from scratches and cracks, and using them only for appropriate instructional purposes.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no expectation of student privacy on our loaner laptops. Students are advised to not do anything on the Chromebooks that they shouldn't be doing at school.
Week of 4/13	Spring Break for Students!	Although students will not need to log onto Google Classroom daily, we will post learning activities students at each grade band can engage in daily on our KIPP Newark Instagram and Facebook page - follow us if you haven't already!

Attendance Expectations: Log on Daily Starting Monday, 4/6!

Beginning April 6th, we will begin using Google Classroom, an online learning platform that will allow our kids and teachers to have points of connection every day. **Attendance will be taken daily based on a student logging into their Google Classroom and answering a "Question of the Day."** Please make sure your child logs on every day by 9:00 a.m. and answers the question of the day. Teachers will keep a record of attendance for each class, and will begin reaching out to students after 12:00 p.m. when they are marked absent.

What if I need more things for my child to do?

We have also posted a range of resources and websites you and your child can begin exploring, so that everyone can leverage the great academic content that's available on the internet. If you have a Kindergartener, First Grader, or Second Grader, it will be important to practice using some of these sites so that he or she can get more familiar with using the Chromebooks at home before we officially launch on April 6th.

What do I do if I have tech problems with my child's laptop?

We are committed to ensuring that students have access to remote learning and we will work with families individually to address obstacles to their access to computer hardware. Last week, KIPP Newark distributed over 3,000 Chromebooks to families. If you need a Chromebook and did not receive one, please contact your child's Director of School Operations or the main office for your child's school and leave a voicemail - our front office team is checking voicemail daily. Also, our Remote Learning site has a [section for Tech Support](#) to help students and families set up their Chromebooks, troubleshoot issues, and request support from our Tech team.

Student Meals

We are serving breakfast and lunch to all children under the age of 18 from Monday to Friday between 10:30AM and 1:30PM for the week of 3/30. Beginning on Monday, 4/6, we will serve meals on Mondays and Wednesdays but will give children meals for the whole week when they visit. Children can pick up both breakfast and lunch (meals are grab & go) at these two KIPP Newark campuses:

- KIPP Newark Collegiate Academy on 129 Littleton Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103 (Littleton Ave entrance)
- KIPP THRIVE & BOLD Academies on 18th Avenue, Newark, NJ 07108 (18th Avenue entrance)

[Click here](#) for a map to help you locate the closest location to you. While waiting to receive meals, please practice social distancing as outlined by [the CDC](#).

Newark Board of Education locations

Breakfast and lunch is available for all students at designated schools from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:30AM and 11:30AM. Students can pick up food at [any of these schools](#). You can use [this map](#) to find the location nearest you. Students should report to the school's main entrance.

Standardized Testing

Due to COVID-19, all remaining K-12 state assessments have been cancelled by the state for the 2019-2020 school year. Regardless of the state test administration or not, our students will continue to learn important content to be college ready, and we will share more information in the coming weeks about how we will assess their learning.

The April 4th national ACT test date has been rescheduled to June 13th nationwide. More information is available at the [ACT website](#).

Update on COVID-19

Officials expect the number of positive cases to continue to rise over the coming weeks, and many school communities, including ours, will learn of instances of secondary exposure. The most productive action is to stay healthy, follow the guidelines instituted by the state urging residents to stay at home, and call your doctor immediately if you are experiencing symptoms. **Currently we have no known confirmed cases of COVID-19 among our students or staff.**

The State of New Jersey has also established a COVID-19 hotline for general information, testing, and resources for basic needs. You can dial 211 or text your zip code to 898211.

Essex County is opening a COVID-19 testing site in Weequahic Park. Testing is only for Essex residents who are exhibiting symptoms of the virus. Testing is by appointment only. For more information visit www.essexcovid.org or call 973-324-9950.

Additional Resources

Type of Resource	Description	How to Access
KIPP Newark Remote Learning Website	Find out more about remote learning and access resources to help you navigate remote learning!	www.kippnj.org/remoteflearning
KIPP Newark Emergency Hotline	KIPP Newark families who have questions about our school closures, are in need of emergency services, meals, or support, or have been confirmed as affected by COVID-19 or in close contact with someone affected by COVID-19 should call, text, or email us!	973-679-7199 kippnewarkhelp@kippnj.org

KIPP:NEWARK

A 60 Park Place #802 Newark, NJ 07102
P 973.622.0905 **F** 973.556.1441
W www.kippnj.org

KIPP:NEW JERSEY
 WORK HARD. BE NICE.
 www.kippnj.org

Groceries	If your family is in need of groceries, the Mayor’s office is providing ShopRite food gift cards and/or food delivery to citizens of Newark. (Newark residents only)	973-733-5728
Student Mental Health Services	If you have concerns or need support regarding resources for your child’s mental health needs, please reach out to a member of your school team for support. Our social workers and school psychologists are doing remote counseling for families who provide verbal consent for remote counseling.	Contact your school’s social worker or your child’s teacher and s/he can connect you.
Community Mental Health Services	<p>The N.J. Department of Human Services operates a toll-free “warm line” which is a resource for people seeking mental health service. Note that the “warm line” does not replace 911 and is not used to report emergencies.</p> <p>As an additional resource for adults experiencing anxiety and stress, the Crisis Text Line serves anyone, in any type of crisis, providing access to free, 24/7 support and information via text. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from their secure online platform.</p>	<p>The warm line is available 24 hours and has language access: (877) 294-HELP (4357).</p> <p>Text 741741 for support.</p>

Please stay safe and well. We look forward to embarking on this next phase of remote learning with you on Monday!

With love,

Ms. Belcher

Executive Director, KIPP Newark