



April 2, 2020

Dear Parents,

The Garrison school has a respected history of incorporating valuable field trips and off-site experiences as an integral part of our curriculum and learning objectives. As you have learned from Mr. Levine, these trips have been cancelled for the remainder of the year. Typically, we go locally to the Desmond-Fish library, to the Hudson River Clearwater, to various museums, nature walks, climate events, and we also host these events for others to participate. These partnerships build upon our long history of community engagement.

On Monday, March 30, the Governor issued an Executive Order that all schools must remain in session during spring break. Specifically, *"Districts must continue to provide remote instruction for students, meals for students, and child care for essential workers every weekday between April 1, 2020 and April 14, 2020, even if the district is scheduled to be on spring break during that time."*

While we have the necessary calendar days to close and meet the 180-day requirement, please know that all districts, regardless of their previously adopted calendar, must abide by this directive. In the spirit of Garrison, and in accord with the mandate to continue our educational e-learning program, our teachers are requesting that our students engage in virtual field trips. This will be in addition to the work that has been already been assigned.

We have compiled a list of virtual sites for you to consider visiting, and you are encouraged to research other educational sites with your child based on their interests. As with any field trip we ask that you partner with us and chaperone the experience. The teachers have created an innovative document in Google classroom for your child to share their virtual learning experience. For example, your child may decide to explore live birds feeding via a webcam with the PNW BOCES environmental education educators. Your child's teacher is providing guidance on how they are expected to share their experience in a e-learning format that is grade level appropriate. A letter is forthcoming from Mr. Levine.

The Garrison teachers have also posted alternative field trip assignments that will not require your child to be on-line. We encourage you to partner with us in this new learning environment as we move forward. You are your child's first teacher and we want to ensure all learning in this e-environment meets their varied needs. With that said, we are deeply sensitive to the effort everyone is putting forth. Our teachers, students and their families are working diligently

to make this shift a success. It is also important that we recognize the days of religious observance for our students, staff, and their families during the week of April 6.

Considering all aspects inherent in these shifts, and the Governor's directive for the coming week, the District is continuing e-learning during this upcoming week. There is flexibility to allow students and staff to honor their religious observances. We are sending you off on your virtual field trips and asking your child to complete their third marking period assignments. The marking period was due to end April 3 and we are accepting work to be included for this quarter until April 13. You may certainly email or call the school number 845-859-0102 and we will help answer any questions Monday – Friday. If you prefer to defer non urgent questions to the week of April 13, you may do that as well.

Thank you again for understanding and for your support during this crisis. We have had nearly 98% attendance daily due to your support. We are asking you to continue completing the attendance next week, and please enjoy your virtual trips.

Sincerely,



Dr. Debra Jackson, Interim Superintendent