



March 22, 2020

Dear Garrison Community,

We trust you are checking in with others during this difficult time. Our staff have been connecting and discussing the evolving needs and concerns as we move into these untried experiences. Everyone is adjusting, parents, families, children, teachers, emergency care workers, our elderly and businesses.

This is a brief note to you as we enter day four of our E-Learning platform. As we learn along with you, we are evolving from our early plans and expectations into phase two. I expect many more evolutions as we move ahead. I ask that you look to the posted E-Learning Plan under "GUFS News" on the website as a starting place to work with us. Be assured we are refining our plan with new updates as we continue to learn more and are able to expand the flexibility across K-8.

Here are a few other areas to share with you. As you know, there are several events including, but not limited to, the Science Fair and PTA Talent Show, which are unable to proceed as planned. We are working on potentially redesigning these as virtual events for the students to participate together. Our staff is initiating "read alouds" to engage your children and we hope to partner with the Desmond-Fish Library as we launch this idea. Other teachers are designing creative connections with students via social media. These are all works "under-construction" concurrent with our E-Learning work.

When our students are scheduled recess from 2PM to 3PM, our teachers are engaged in their own learning. Their professional development is also critical to our common success. This is not any different than our PD plans throughout a typical school year, but now they have a focus on e-learning.

I encourage you to have your child connect in Google meet with our Principal, Mr. Levine, to experience a virtual lunch with him each day at noon. We also want you to know the New York State 3–8 ELA, Math, Science and NYSESLAT exams are cancelled for 2020. We are awaiting a decision on the Regents exams.

The question continues to be asked, when will school reopen. As of today, we are closed through April 12. Students and teachers will be on spring break during the week of April 6 – 10.

We will update you on any new directives that may extend the school closing. As you know these are unprecedented times.

I also want to let you know that the school building is closed to teachers, students, and others. We are providing childcare for the children of the designated essential workers as directed by the Governor. Only those identified personnel who are working in this program may enter the building. No other pick-up of any materials or personal items is permitted. A very select section of the building is scheduled for daily deep cleaning as part of this program.

Additionally, school-based committee meetings are postponed. This includes the Health and Wellness, and Code of Conduct committees, also the Environmental Education and Climate Summit meetings. Currently our teachers, who are key in this work, are focused on our students' immediate needs. We will re-schedule these as soon as possible.

Please know we recognize your patience and support which is very appreciated. We all are grateful for your understanding during these major shifts in the way we work and live. Garrison is a special place to call home.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "J".

Dr. Debra Jackson, Interim Superintendent