



Superintendent Update Message

1 message

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Reply-To: Ramapo Indian Hills High School <noreply@rih.org>

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Ramapo Indian Hills Regional H.S. District

Superintendent Update Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our Virtual High School has been up and running now for two full weeks. We are so fortunate that our amazing teachers made this a seamless transition from onsite to online learning. As you have seen on the news, we are, unfortunately, still experiencing a very serious situation in the tri-state area with COVID-19. With a "Stay at Home" order in place by the governor, it has given us reason to reconsider our upcoming April break. We have had conversations with the administration, members of parent groups, and teachers and believe it is in the best interest of our students to amend the April break. Our teenagers and their families will have nowhere to go, including not visiting with friends, no movies, no athletic practices/games, no shopping and no travel. With little to do, we all know that it can impact mental and emotional health. To keep our students in a routine and busy for part of these rather boring days, I will be recommending to our Board of Education on Tuesday evening, March 31, that we keep our Virtual Learning in session on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (April 6-8), and then close for all students, teachers and support staff on Thursday (April 9) and Good Friday (April 10).

Additionally, by keeping the schools in session for three of the five April Break days, we will be able to move the high school graduations one week earlier to June 16 from June 23, still meeting the 180-day student requirement since we have not used all inclement weather days. The last school day for all students would be a minimum day on June 16.

This "Stay at Home" order is tough for even the strongest. Too much idle time is not healthy. While making changes to the school calendar is never taken lightly, at this time I absolutely believe that

keeping our teenagers in a routine during these challenging days will help them to cope with the current conditions we are experiencing. Continuing their learning, while having virtual contact with teachers and classmates will be the healthiest solution to a difficult problem.

I hope your families are staying well. Thank you for your continuing support of our schools, especially during these difficult days.

With best regards.

Beverly MacKay

Superintendent of Schools

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Ramapo Indian Hills H.S District

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