



HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Education Today
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Office of the Assistant Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction

K. Elizabeth Guercin
Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
eguercin@herricks.org

March 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you are aware, our schools will be closed through March 31, 2020, with the possibility of an extended closure beyond that date. While a full educational experience is difficult to provide through remote technology, our teachers are prepared to continue your child’s learning at home through e-learning access. Please note that all district norms and rules regarding digital citizenship and online etiquette still apply.

For the sake of normalcy, we encourage all students to maintain a regular school routine. Please try to have students maintain a schedule and work productively during traditional school hours.

Beginning Thursday, March 19, any assignments will be posted by 10:00 a.m.

Elementary Schools

- Your child’s teacher will be sharing a Google doc or Google Classroom link or communicating via email with parents and/or students.
- For parents who may want structure, a *SAMPLE* K-5 schedule may be:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 a.m.	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
9:45 a.m.	Social Studies	Science	Social Studies	Science	Social Studies
10:30 a.m.	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
11:15 a.m.	Science/ Engineering/ Design Challenge	PE/ Outdoor Play	Free Activity	PE/ Outdoor Play	Free Activity
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	ELA/Reading	ELA/Reading	ELA/Reading	ELA/Reading	ELA/Reading
2:00 p.m.	Independent Work/Herricks Library Resources	Music	Art	Music	Independent Work/Herricks Library Resources

Middle School

- Your student’s teachers will be posting assignments on their Google Classroom accounts or communicating via email with parents and/or students.

High School

- Please check the platform your teacher has been using throughout the school year. In many cases, but not all, that is Google Classroom. Additionally students should feel free to email questions or concerns to their teachers or building administrators @herricks.org or through the platform used for learning.

Where applicable, if you have questions regarding your child's unique needs as per their IEP, please email your child's special education teacher or provider, classroom teacher, or the special education building administrator.

Some of you have scheduled CSE meetings during this time and/or anticipate having CSE meetings in the near future. Please know we are aware of this and will be addressing it as soon as we can. The CSE Chairperson will be in touch with you as we have more information.

Students will be expected to complete the assigned work in a flexible way. We are excited for the potential for this new type of learning and the opportunity to connect, engage, and problem-solve differently. As we await further guidance from the New York State Education Department, learning will continue, albeit in a non-traditional manner. Teachers may provide feedback where possible, as appropriate.

In addition to what you will receive from your teachers, we have provided general online resources on the district website through the E-Learning Quicklinks tab or at www.herricks.org/elearning especially created for this event. **Please note that these are *additional*, but not required resources for students.**

- If your child receives OT, speech or related services, there will be resources provided within this e-learning link.
- Resources for English Language Learners will also be available on this link.

We are committed to continuing our students' learning, as well as their emotional well-being. Students should be limiting their exposure to others through "social distancing." Without regular interaction with their friends and peers or the security of the school routines, students may experience worry, fear, sadness and frustration. Please take steps to support your child during these unsettling times. We encourage you to email your school psychologist, guidance counselor, or social worker if you need support.

We look forward to partnering with you to ensure a smooth transition to remote learning. Please see answers to some of the **Frequently Asked Questions** on the next page. If you have additional questions, please contact your building principal. We thank you for your support and flexibility as we navigate this new reality together. The district will continue to keep you updated on any new information as we receive it.

Sincerely,

K. Elizabeth Guercin

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Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Frequently Asked Questions

Please note that these are unprecedented times. Information is ever evolving minute to minute. The responses below to the frequently asked questions reflect the most current information provided to us at this moment. We continually receive guidance from the local, state, and Federal government, and will keep you apprised of changes as they occur. We appreciate your understanding and patience.

Online Learning Protocol

- What platforms will be utilized by teachers for online learning (i.e. Google Classroom, Test Wizard, Web Assign)?
 - Teachers will use the format they most typically use throughout the year.
- Will students be expected to call into their classes, using Zoom or Skype?
 - At this time, students will not be expected to call in.
 - Should the district closure be extended, a teacher may reach out for check-in or extra help by another means including Zoom, Skype, or a call.

Standardized Testing

- Will AP exams be administered as usual or postponed?
 - The College Board is developing tools to mitigate the impact of school closures, including the possibility of having students test at home depending on the situation in May.
 - The AP Program is working on streamlining the AP Exam options and will continue to monitor the situation
- Will Regents exams be administered as usual or postponed?
 - We are not sure at this time.
- Will students get reimbursed or other opportunities to supplement for the March SAT cancellation?
 - The rescheduled March SAT is cancelled. Registered students will receive refunds through the College Board. The May SATs have been cancelled by the College Board.
 - The June SAT is not cancelled at this time, but the situation will continue to be monitored and assessed by the College Board and will notify schools as the know more.
- Will the NYS Assessments in ELA and Math for Grades 3-8 still take place?
 - At this time the NYS Education Department has suspended the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests in response to the mandatory closing of schools. We await further guidance regarding the administration of the Grades 3-8 NYS Math assessments.

- Will the ACTs be administered on time?
 - The ACT has cancelled the April 4, 2020 national test date and rescheduled the test for June 13, 2020. ACT will communicate directly with all students currently registered for the April 4, 2020 ACT test. All students registered for the April 4 test date will receive an email from ACT informing them of the postponement and instructions for the next steps.

Grading Systems

- Will the third quarter be extended?
 - This will not be a normal year. Some decisions will be determined by the New York State Department of Education as to how long the schools will be closed. We will make decisions about the length of the quarter as we gain more information about the school closure.
- Will third quarter grades be weighted differently in order to allow students to pull up their grades?
 - We understand students' concerns about their grades. We will make appropriate adjustments to the marking period, grading, or weighting as necessary based on the length of closure.