



HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Education Today
Knowledge Forever**

Office of the Assistant Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction

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Dear Herricks Families,

While the past few days may have felt incredibly long, today we will have completed only our *third* day of remote learning. I applaud our strong Herricks community of teachers, support staff, administrators, students and parents for their fortitude and patience as we figure this out together. Teachers began to share out assignments only last Thursday. In that time, I have gotten many positive comments about the communication families have received from their teachers, counselors, and administration. I have also gotten many questions.

We ask for your patience.

Although during this crisis, some questions await a response from the state education department, our relationships with our neighboring districts are strengthened as we share ideas and resolve questions together regarding the transition to online learning. At Herricks, we are cognizant of the many factors impacting our families. We understand both parent and student perspectives in wanting something that resembles traditional school, including face-to-face interactions. We all seek normalcy; however, I want you to be aware that we have families at various levels of technological proficiency, technology capability, means and access. There are many parents working remotely who are juggling their own work obligations and their children's school schedules. There are families with limited devices at home. This is a health crisis and there are families who may themselves be taking care of or protecting vulnerable loved ones. With that in mind, our teachers are working hard to deliver appropriate instruction and/or provide the appropriate avenue for learning.

As we all get more comfortable with the various platforms, the delivery will get easier and better and more creative. In the meantime, we are granting teachers flexibility in what they do. We trust their professional judgement in how they are checking work and providing feedback. We do not want our students unduly stressed right now as we still await guidance from the state and the federal government. As we move forward, should the closure be extended, we will continue to expand our learning plan with ongoing training for teachers on technology.

You should contact your child's teacher(s), curriculum administrator, or building principal or assistant principal with any specific questions you may have. We will continue to address any technical issues as quickly as we can.

I remind you again that social distancing may be particularly challenging for our students. It is important for their health that they remain isolated. However, please be sure to monitor their spirits and reach out to the school counselor, psychologist or social worker if you have any concerns about their emotional well-being.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that cannot be answered at the building level.

Stay safe, stay well.

Sincerely,

K. Elizabeth Guercin

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction