



Nutley Public Schools

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Dr. Julie Glazer, Superintendent
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May 1, 2020

Dear Nutley Parents and Staff,

It's hard to believe that we have completed our 30th day of virtual learning. Again, I'll reiterate how proud I am of our entire staff, and students all working remotely, and adapting so quickly and so well to these new ways in which we are expected to teach, learn, and work. Everyone is doing more than they ever thought they could, and are bravely taking risks and being creative. Change is hard, but this learning community has come together in all of the best ways possible, continually moving forward through these very challenging times.

During our first two weeks of virtual learning, beginning in mid-March, we all made the big leap to teach and to learn while staying home and socially distancing. In the following two weeks, we began integrating resources and tools with our learning management system, Schoology, to deliver instruction. We began to understand that remote instruction is not an attempt to replicate in-person classrooms, but a blending of strategies for teaching and learning. We all became more comfortable balancing our workload with our many other responsibilities, often while caring for sick family members and struggling to stay positive with the prospect of extended closures.

In the past two weeks we have begun to incorporate live feedback via video sessions, if this had not been done already. During this phase of virtual learning, teachers are connecting with students, directly through live instruction, small group conferences, and/or office hours/student drop-in support. Teachers are also recording lessons and screencasts that allow students to watch and re-watch instruction and the modeling of new skills and strategies. It has made a big difference for our students to see the faces of their teachers and peers throughout the week. This has also been an opportunity for parents to conference with teachers. Moving forward through the next weeks all teachers, general education and special education, will continue to be live via video on at least two days of instruction to connect with students, answer questions, provide feedback and meet in small groups.

As our practice continues to evolve, I remind all staff and students to please only allow NutleySchools.org email addresses into your Google Meets. This will help keep the videos safe and secure.

While our buildings are closed until further notice, all district operations and instruction will continue remotely while we await direction from Governor Murphy and the Department of Education. We expect to receive an update by May 15. Our Spring Break Mondays will continue on May 4 and May 11.

I remain grateful for your support and flexibility, as we all try to navigate so many unknowns. Please continue to take care of yourselves and your families. Wishing you all good health.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julie Glazer