



**Greenwood Lake Union Free School District**

P.O. Box 8 • Greenwood Lake, NY 10925  
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www.gwlufsd.org

Sarah E. Hadden  
Superintendent of Schools  
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March 24, 2020

Dear GWL Families,

I sincerely hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. I am certainly missing seeing your children's faces in school every day! We continue to provide breakfast and lunch meals to students who need it, although we have moved to a different format. We are now delivering all five days' worth of meals directly to students' homes each Monday morning. We did this to limit exposure of all and maintain social distancing. We continue to man the elementary school each day from 10:30 am to 12 noon for any new families that need food for their children immediately. We also have a small canned food pantry available if you need items for your household. If you are in need of student meal support, please email Ann Lierow at [alierow@gwlufsd.org](mailto:alierow@gwlufsd.org) and she will arrange meal delivery starting immediately.

Tonight, I want to give you new information on three specific topics:

**Remote Instruction/Distance Learning Plan**

This coming Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, we will begin remote instruction (new content) for all K-8 students. The tool we will use for this will be Google Classroom. Teachers are working this week to prepare to begin on Monday. On Friday evening or Saturday morning, I will send you a full plan of how this will work, with specifics, so please be on the lookout for another email.

If you're like me, you've gone from knowing no one with the virus, to knowing of someone, to having it directly affect someone you love. Although it is our job and duty to plan for the continued education of our students, I fully expect the conversation to change, both in your homes and among us as educators, as the virus spreads and affects more people. If a child or parent gets sick, you will be unable to continue the work we are asking of the students. If a teacher get sick, or someone in their immediate family does, they will need to take sick time and focus on your family. All of this is understood. During this unprecedented time in history, grace is greater than grades. Replicating the school day is not possible. We will make plans that don't work. We will face more significant problems than logging in. Every home and situation will be different. We have been thrown a huge curveball, and what the world needs a whole lot of right now is love, understanding, and grace. It is my pledge to you that we will provide all three of these (love, understanding, and grace) to the GWL families.

There are some of you who have emailed asking for more work. There are others sending emails asking for less work, wanting us to let families just be together during this time. It is impossible to please everyone and it is also not possible to fully replicate a regular school day – we have to take all learners into consideration. With the above, I have arranged for our District to have free access to ABC Mouse (preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> gr), Adventure Academy (gr 3-8), and Reading IQ (preShool – 6<sup>th</sup> gr). I am including information about signing up for these websites with this letter. There are directions in both Spanish and English. My own daughter had great success learning with ABCMouse.com and ReadingIQ; she is ecstatic to soon begin Adventure Academy. I hope providing these resources offers an additional learning option for those families looking to do a bit more. (Thank you to those of



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you who emailed me and let me know about this amazing opportunity to get such a fantastic program for free!) When you sign up where it asks for School Director, please type Sarah Hadden.

### **Re-Structuring Spring Break Dates**

Although no call has been made yet by our Governor in terms of extending closures, we anticipate an announcement soon. Directives from New York State Education Department and the Governor have mandated that we use up any “give back” snow days during this time period. They’ve also told us to reconsider spring break days. With that in mind, I’m attaching a revised calendar that accounts for the two give back snow days as well as shifts some of the Spring Break days. This will allow us to provide more consistent remote instruction once it starts. Calendar Revision 2 will come out in the upcoming weeks, when we have more specific guidance from the Governor and State Education Department.

### **District Communication Plan**

Finally, I know in these uncertain times, hearing from your District and School administrators consistently is extremely important. From this point forward, you will receive a formal letter from me each Monday, detailing any updates, changes, or shifts over the prior or upcoming week. This letter will be sent to everyone’s email through our Messenger program, just as this letter arrived in your inbox this evening. It will also be posted to our website on the Coronavirus Information page and on FaceBook. In addition, you will also hear from us informally every day on FaceBook. We will check in, post something fun, ask a question, etc. Please be sure to “like” us and maybe even turn on notifications for when we post - and be sure to participate in the conversation! You can find us by searching ‘Greenwood Lake UFSD’ in the search box.

I will, of course, continue to send urgent/important emails as the need arises.

Thanks for reading this all the way through! I will be in touch soon. Give your children a hug, handshake, or high five from Mrs. Hadden!

Warmly,

Sarah Hadden