



Greenwood Lake Union Free School District

P.O. Box 8 • Greenwood Lake, NY 10925
(845) 782-8678 x51100 • fax (845) 782-8582
www.gwlufsd.org

Sarah E. Hadden
Superintendent of Schools
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March 13, 2020

Dear GWL Families & Staff,

Together, we are facing an unprecedented health crisis in our community. For weeks, we have been following the explicit guidance of the Centers for Disease Control, New York Department of Health, the Orange County Department of Health, and the New York State Department of Education, by implementing preventative and responsive strategies to help slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The departments of health have been in daily contact with us, providing important guidance on decisions to help ensure the health and well-being of our students, staff, and community.

This afternoon, at approximately 2 pm, we learned from County Executive Steve Neuhaus that all Orange County Schools will be closed for the next two weeks due to precautions surrounding the Coronavirus. Greenwood Lake UFSD has elected to extend this mandated recess period for an additional week. This extra week, along with our already scheduled Spring Recess, is intended to provide a sufficient amount of time to reduce the risk that this virus poses to our school community and the community at large. **This means that GWLUFSD will be closed to students from Monday, March 16, 2020 through Tuesday, April 14, 2020, including all extracurricular, athletic, and before/after school activities.**

All district and building level staff are asked to report to work on Monday, March 16th so that we may prepare for this long-term closure. That day, we will build resources for blended learning activities (paper, hands-on, and technology) that parents could do at home with their children in the various subject areas. As there is no replacement for a highly trained teacher, these will not be instructional in nature, but instead will be review and educational activities to support all learners. GWLUFSD staff: Please be on the lookout for an additional email from me sometime tomorrow regarding our work on Monday.

In conjunction with this, we are arranging the following:

- Technology will be made available for all students to bring home. (iPads in K-1 and ChromeBooks in grades 2-8)
- Households that do not have wireless internet connectivity, we will be sending out a survey so that we can create a plan to support you.
- Students in need of food assistance, we will be sending out a survey so that we can arrange food pick-ups during this time period.

In addition, early next week (likely sometime on Monday) we will be allowing families to come get their child's personal belongings, technology, medicines, etc. Information about how that will work will come out later this weekend.



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This is a rapidly evolving situation, and we will continue to provide our families with updates as information becomes available. We have daily, sometimes hourly, communications with health officials from Orange County and are following their directions carefully. Should they issue further guidance on extending the duration of the closure, families will be notified immediately.

Please visit our website frequently and follow us on Facebook. We will be releasing updates as often as we can. I can appreciate the myriad of emotions that surround the current COVID-19/coronavirus outbreak. I would like to thank our families for their support, patience, and adaptability during this challenging time. Again, please stay tuned for any further updates as they develop.

[Click here for the Message from County Executive Steve Neuhaus](#)

Click here for our [District Website](#) and [Parent Coronavirus Information Page](#)

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah Hadden'.

Sarah Hadden