March 13, 2020

Dear school community,

The Middletown Township Public School District will institute virtual home instruction beginning on Monday, March 16th. Virtual home instruction will continue for at least two weeks. Students will not report to the school buildings, but are expected to continue with daily virtual instruction as assigned by their teachers through Google Classrooms. The decision to extend virtual home instruction will be considered as we approach the end of the two week period. Please monitor the district website and announcements sent through SchoolMessenger for future updates. Spring break will begin as scheduled on April 6th and end on April 10th. All extra-curricular activities and sporting events will be cancelled and no outside groups will be permitted in the schools during this time.

As the COVID-19 Coronavirus continues to spread throughout the region and the state, it has become evident that we need to make every effort to halt the spread of the virus to keep our communities safe.

In consultation with the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) we believe it is important to err on the side of caution and follow the recommended guidelines for social distancing. As Governor Murphy stated this afternoon, “Long-term school closures are inevitable.”

Fortunately, as I communicated to you earlier this week, we have a well-defined and comprehensive virtual learning plan in place to initiate virtual home instruction days for our students. Additional resources and information about the plan for virtual home instruction can be found on the district website. The NJ Department of Education has authorized virtual home instruction days to count toward the 180 day school requirement, therefore we will not have to make up any days for this health-related closing.

During the implementation of virtual home instruction administrators, support staff and secretaries will be available to support parents and students. If you have the need to communicate with an administrator, secretary, guidance counselor, nurse, CST case manager, etc, please send a message to their district email. Staff will respond either through email or phone call during regular school days and hours, as appropriate.

Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time. We believe that these proactive measures will help slow the spread of the virus and will ultimately preserve the health and safety of our children, staff members and community. Updates will be provided as additional information becomes available.

Sincerely,

William O. George III, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools