

**Hackettstown and Great Meadows Regional School Districts  
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers  
About Instruction and Wellness  
March 20, 2020**

***Please be advised that this is subject to change as needed.  
All questions will be marked red if altered.***

**1. How long should we anticipate our District being closed?**

*Based on daily information shared and communicated by local, state and government officials, there is the strong possibility the District will be closed longer than first anticipated. We advise all community members to begin preparing for an extensive closure, state-wide.*

**2. What are student/staff expectations should the District be closed beyond the Spring Recess?**

*The District expects both staff and students will continue to log on daily for attendance and learning purposes. Students are expected to partner with staff should they have any difficulty with assignments. Staff will continue to develop, create and deliver lessons and assessments that meet the N.J. Department of Education requirements.*

**3. What happens if I do not receive the e-mail to mark my student present for attendance?**

*The links for attendance stay the same day-to-day. If you are not receiving the email, please contact your building administrator so that we can verify that your current email address is on file. Attendance should be taken for the present day between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.*

*The codes for building attendance are listed below:*

- *Hackettstown High School: <https://forms.gle/UtMhZxpz3hoX6xcE9>*
- *Hackettstown Middle School: <https://forms.gle/CCTELwCwCtv2u75Q7>*
- *Willow Grove School: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jjXuAYH51bUWs-dUz0zn4KcDaX1YwiXpLJFGMvaDOPs/edit?ts=5e703a76>*
- *Hatchery Hill School:  
Attendance link: <https://forms.gle/tJ4PNPxDxjjw8zbd6>  
enlace de asistencia: <https://forms.gle/tJ4PNPxDxjjw8zbd6>*
- *Great Meadows Middle School:  
Great Meadows Middle School:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWimULPNjZAZg7RdlilpHWj3717r2J21TV98anBkZA4tzROw/viewform>*
- *Central Elementary School:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-z2OpN0yN7UjiFtr-XLdwn-g7iRevii6l-Qn\\_oerkqlxCdw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-z2OpN0yN7UjiFtr-XLdwn-g7iRevii6l-Qn_oerkqlxCdw/viewform?usp=sf_link)*

**4. As a parent/guardian, how can I assist or what is my role in the instructional process during this closure?**

*Parents are valuable and the most important resource of all during this timeframe. The District asks that parents/guardians continue to monitor their child's progress and work and never hesitate to contact your child's teacher(s), if your child exhibits any instructional, emotional or processing/understanding concerns.*

**5. What are the time expectations per class for my student?**

*Expectations differ from building to building. Coursework should be tailored to your student and their educational abilities. We will need to post and be consistent across both districts.*

**Hackettstown High School:** *We are operating on our day type calendar. (<https://bit.ly/2WqZa4a>) Students should not be receiving assignments from teachers on days that their class does not meet.*

- 1 hour of English (ELA)
- 1 hour of Math
- 30 minutes of Social Studies
- 30 minutes of Science
- 30 minutes of Physical Education
- 30 minutes of electives daily.

*\* At the high school level teachers have been asked to stay as close to the District guidelines as possible but some discretion is given because of the level of course students are enrolled in ( i.e. CP, CPA, Honors, AP)*

**Hackettstown Middle School:** *via Google Classroom that includes:*

- 1 hour of English (ELA)
- 1 hour of Math
- 30 minutes of Social Studies
- 30 minutes of Science
- 30 minutes of Physical Education
- 30 minutes of electives daily.

**Willow Grove School:**

- 1 hour focused on literacy (reading and writing)
- 30 minutes focused on mathematics
- 30 minutes focused on science and social studies
- 30 minutes of physical education
- 30 minutes dedicated to all other specials
- Please utilize online platforms to enhance your learning experiences in all subject areas

**Hatchery Hill School:**

- 1 hour focused on literacy (reading and writing)
- 30 minutes focused on mathematics
- 30 minutes focused on science and social studies
- 30 minutes of physical education
- 30 minutes dedicated to all other specials
- Please utilize online platforms to enhance your learning experiences in all subject areas

**Great Meadows Middle School:** via Google Classroom

- 1 hour of English (ELA)
- 1 hour of Math
- 30 minutes of Social Studies,
- 30 minutes of Science,
- 30 minutes of Physical Education and a
- 30 minutes of electives daily.

**Central Elementary School** (these are suggested times. You may spend more or less in each area based on student preference and/or time restrictions):

- 1 hour daily of ELA (reading and writing)
- 30-45 minutes daily of math
- 1 hour per week of science
- 1 hour per week of social studies
- 1 hour per week of physical education
- 30 minutes per week of music, art, technology, library, and world language

**6. Who do I contact if I have a question regarding school work?**

*The best point of contact for questions, concerns, or issues regarding school work are the classroom teachers. If you fail to get an adequate and timely response, please reach out to a building administrator.*

**7. Are teachers and students required to post and check their Google Classroom every day?**

**Hackettstown High School:** *If your child's class meets on that day, the classroom teacher should have plans updated no earlier than 7:50am. While we are on a modified schedule, it is our expectation that teachers are in contact with their students daily and respond to any questions within a reasonable amount of time.*

**Hackettstown Middle School:** *Websites are updated by teachers everyday at 8:30am. It is the expectation that students contact their teachers, via email. between the hours of 8:30-12:30.*

**Willow Grove School:** All Willow Grove staff and students should interact daily on our online platforms. This will help ensure your child's continued progress. Any lack in online engagement may negatively impact student growth. Please stay engaged! If you don't have a computer or internet access please contact Mr. Beyer directly via email. We are committed to providing educational access for all students.

**Hatchery Hill School:** Staff interacts with parents and students on a daily basis. This is mainly done through email and other platforms such as DoJo and Think Central. Daily contact is very important. Our ESL and Bilingual teachers are in contact with their students and available for parent questions.

**Great Meadows Middle School:** Yes, Monday-Friday. It is important that students log on each day and complete the day's work. While there are timelines, those are flexible being this is a new delivery format for GMMS. Teachers are understanding of that. Teachers have also been instructed to check email, phone messages and respond to students and parents in a timely manner. Because of the overwhelming email traffic, we are asking for 24-48 hours timeline before you receive a response.

**Central Elementary School:** The Central School webpage has uploads of instructional materials by grade/subject area; teachers utilizing Google Classroom are available from 8:45-1:15 daily; other teachers are available via email, Class Dojo, or other remote platforms between 8:45-1:15.

**8. How will my students be graded during this time? If paper copies were sent home, how and when will grades be updated?**

*This will be different for each school/grade level.*

**Hackettstown High School:** Teachers are updating their Gradebooks as they receive assignments.

**Hackettstown Middle School:** Google Classroom is being utilized to assess students. Grades will be updated on Realtime.

**Willow Grove School:** Teachers will be assessing students based on daily online interactions and assignment completion. We will also be assessing all packets at the end of our district closure. At this time it is most important for all students to have a consistent and daily online presence. Make sure your child is virtually interacting with their teacher. Students who do not have computer and or wifi access will be assessed on an individual basis.

**Hatchery Hill School:** Teachers will be assessing students based on daily online interactions and assignment completion. We will also be assessing all packets at the end of our district closure. At this time it is most important for all students to have a consistent and daily online presence. Students who do not have computer and or wifi access will be assessed on an individual basis. Teachers are in contact with families via email and other platforms and evaluating student progress.

**Great Meadows Middle School:** Google classroom is being utilized fully. Students receive work and submit their work for grading and assessments through Google Classroom.

**Central Elementary School:** Assignments submitted on Google Classroom will be graded as they are turned in. Teachers and parents are encouraged to work together to send photos or scans of paper-based work for grading purposes. If your child is working on paper-based, please contact his/her teacher to determine the preferred way of submitting completed assignments.

**9. When will my child's assignments be due?**

*In Hackettstown, this is determined by school and by individual teachers. Teachers have been instructed to keep their gradebook up to date and should be an indicator of the work that your child has turned in. If you have questions about individual assignments, please contact your child's teacher.*

*In Central Elementary and Great Meadows Middle School, the assignment dates should be posted on the Google Classroom they are logged into. Paper-based work due dates will be specified by the teacher.*

**10. If there are discrepancies with my child's grades or assignments, who should parents/guardians contact?**

*Please contact your child's Principal and/or designee should you find discrepancy in grades or assignments.*

**11. I have an IEP meeting scheduled for my son/daughter, will the meeting still take place, how will I be notified?**

*When it comes to IEP meetings, the CST is making every effort to go on as business as usual. If meeting face to face is not required and the legal guardian gives consent, the meeting will take place via tele-conference. The case manager will contact the parent and teachers to schedule the meeting. If the meeting does require face to face contact or if the legal guardian does not give consent, the meeting will need to be rescheduled to a time in which the district is back in session.*

**12. My child has an evaluation that needs to be completed, how and when will this be completed?**

*If an evaluation of a student with a disability requires a face-to-face assessment or observation, the evaluation or meeting would need to be delayed until school reopens. Evaluations and re-evaluations that do not require face-to-face assessments or observations may take place while schools are closed, so long as a student's parent or legal guardian consents.*

**13. How will my child be receiving related services during this closure?**

*As with any extended absences, all related service providers, as well as the IEP team, will be assessing students upon our return to determine if additional time or sessions are warranted. Our speech therapists have created activities to support your child's skill acquisition while at home. These activities should have been received; if you did not receive any speech related activities please reach out to your child's service provider or case manager.*

**14. Will prepaid trips such as the Middle School, Washington D.C. trip be canceled?**

*There is an extremely strong chance that prepaid or scheduled trips will be canceled for the remainder of this calendar year. Each district is looking at the ramifications if a cancellation is necessary.*

**15. Will our district offer Spring Sports should school return to session by mid-April?**

*All Spring Sports will remain canceled until further notice. If school returns to session, Spring Sports will resume when the district feels that participation will be safe for all and in accordance with NJSIAA, NJAC and HWS rules and guidelines. Please go to the NJSIA website ( [njsiaa.org](http://njsiaa.org) ) to view the March 16th updated NJSIAA Statement regarding the Status of Spring Sports.*

**16. Will NJSLA or any form of N.J.State testing take place?**

*Governor Murphy announced on March 24, 2020 that the State of New Jersey is cancelling all statewide student assessments for the spring 2020 testing window. This includes the springtime administration of the NJSLA, ACCESS and the DLM. Cancellation of the assessments will not affect graduation. The State is now working through how to mitigate the effects on staff evaluations and district accountability. We will share information as we receive it.*

*Link to State Broadcast:*

*<https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts/2020/mar/24/New%20Jersey%20Cancels%20Statewide%20Student%20Assessments.pdf>*

**17. What is being used to clean the buildings?**

*In Hackettstown, the custodial staff is utilizing Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution. Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution can be used against SARS-*

CoV-2 COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019). More information can be found on their website: <https://bioesquesolutions.com/botanical-disinfectant-solution>

In Great Meadows, the main disinfectant the custodial staff has been using is Neutral Q 64 Disinfectant. They have recently placed an order for Bioesque Botanical Disinfectant Solution as well. More information on Neutral Q 64 can be found at <https://www.nycoproducts.com/products/neutral-q-64>.

**18. What should I do if someone in my immediate family falls ill?**

*Immediately report to your family physician for further guidance and possible mandatory reporting if the illness relates to COVID-19. If you are tested and are confirmed positive, please contact your building administrator who will then contact the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools is then required to contact the Warren County Health Department and Warren County Educational Offices for reporting purposes.*

**19. How do I explain the realities of COVID-19 to my child should a family member, family friend, staff member, etc., fall ill?**

*Anytime a loved one falls sick can be a period of stress for the entire family. Are they going to be ok? Can I get sick too? The Covid-19 virus will have a significant effect on the elderly and medically fragile. If you or your family are experiencing a hardship related to the virus please contact our guidance services for support. Below please find some online resources that are available to you.*

<https://sites.google.com/hackettstown.org/self-care-tips/home>

<https://www.nasponline.org/>

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus>

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-how-talk-child.html>

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mTfXZA6pBM1xpkxCUWPRLcO8EajEr-V-/view?usp=sharing>

<https://www.virusanxiety.com/+>

**20. How long does my family need to practice safe distance measures?**

*The District recommends that all community members follow ALL recommendations and/or suggestions set forth by Government officials regarding safe and social distancing, social interactions and group gatherings.*

**21. Where should I go should my family run out of household supplies?**

*The District recommends contacting local food/supply pantries, local law enforcement, EMT and school officials for possible assistance for resources.*

**22. When a human becomes irritable or restless because he/she has been isolated indoors for too long, we refer to this as cabin fever. What are some strategies we can do to lessen the effects of cabin fever?**

*Keeping your mind active is important. Try to look at everything you normally do from a different light and make changes to your daily routine. Also, consider exercising. There are a bunch of free videos out there that will walk you through some great workouts! Yoga is a great way to calm the mind and body. Also take time to learn that new skill you never had time to practice before (examples: playing the guitar, learning to knit or learning to juggle). You can also read a new book or conduct a science experiment. There are plenty of resources online that can assist you. And if all else fails, cook a delicious meal that you have never tried. At least your belly will be full!*

**23. Who can most benefit from mindful meditation?**

*The word “benefit” can mean several different things depending on the context. However, usually those who report experiencing a transformation in which they relate differently to themselves and others compared to before, they started practicing mindfulness meditation. Some people report experiencing a lighter, softer, kinder and less reactive way of being with themselves and others in everyday situations. They are able to flex the muscles of acceptance and be more conscious, especially with regards to things that are difficult to accept or let be.*

*Central Elementary School - Starting Friday, 3/20, Mr. Schepis will conduct a morning Mindful Minute on the @GMcentralJags Twitter page immediately following the Morning Announcements at 9:15 a.m.*