



Public Schools of Plainfield New Jersey

Office Community Engagement Liaison

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VIDEO RELEASE

DR. DIANA MITCHELL, SUPERINTENDENT OF PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Plainfield, NJ, April 17, 2020 - Plainfield Public Schools' Superintendent Dr. Diana Mitchell released a video message to update students, parents, staff and the Plainfield community on what the District has been doing during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Dr. Mitchell said the District has been closed since March 17 and will remain closed at least until May 15 under orders from Governor Phil Murphy, who ordered the closing of all New Jersey schools. Since that time all the students in grades K-12 have been on distance learning. More recently, the K-8 graders who at first took packages home were issued electronic devices on April 1 to April 3. At this time the entire district is on virtual distance learning.

Dr. Mitchell announced the District will provide hotspots for students who do not have access to the internet.

Dr. Mitchell said students are expected back on virtual learning on Monday, April 20 after the brief recess for Spring Break, April 10 to April 17. Since the district is required to take attendance every day, Dr. Mitchell urged all the students to sign-in to comply with this mandate.

The district has been providing information regularly through social media and postings on the district's website regarding food distribution, school schedules, teacher rosters, special services programs, resources for students, teachers, parents, and contact information. Since the closing of schools, the district posted the Emergency Preparedness Plan required by the Union County Superintendent. The Plan has been on the web since March 20 and is subject to change as the district receives new information and new mandates. Dr. Mitchell urged everyone to review the plan and to stay connected by visiting district's website (www.plainfieldnj12.org) not just for academic

resources but for resources to support them mentally and emotionally during this difficult time. She said to the parents they are not alone and the Plainfield Public Schools' staff is ready to assist them.

In closing, Dr. Mitchell expressed her gratitude to all the staff serving to keep the district operational and specially to Mascio's Food Service, to the teachers and administrators who fought their fears to volunteer to distribute the devices to the students, and to all the teachers "who have had to reinvent their craft to serve the students virtually."

Dr. Mitchell begins her video message wishing everyone well, "I pray you are all safe, at home and practicing social distancing..." and concludes with a message for unity and kindness "This is a time to comfort each other and to encourage each other. The corona virus is a moving target that does not discriminate.....please visit our website not just for academic resources but to also for resources to support to you mentally and emotionally...As Champions we will continue to support you."

Link to video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUtQcBpdSoo&t=14s>

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