



MANASQUAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“One School, One Team, Making a Difference”

168 Broad Street, Manasquan, New Jersey 08736

Phone: (732) 528-8810 Fax: (732) 223-9736

E-mail: cgraziano@manasquan.k12.nj.us

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Dear MES Parents,

First, please know how much we appreciate your cooperation and understanding during this challenging time. We know having school closed and asking you to oversee your children’s school work at home is very challenging. We thank you for all that you are doing to work with us during this unprecedented time. This is, indeed, uncharted territory for all of us, administration included!

As we move forward, please know that we will be available by email to answer any questions that you might have. The elementary school remains closed, but technology support will be available at the High School gymnasium entrance on weekdays during the hours of 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Students receiving free or reduced lunches will continue to pick up their lunch at the high school between 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. A voice mailbox has also been set up specifically for the elementary school for general questions at 732-528-8810, Ext. 2990.

We also want to share with you how thankful we are for all of our teachers’ incredible efforts. They have worked very hard – and will continue to do so – to prepare meaningful instruction for your children. In addition to students in Grades 6-8 having the ability to communicate with their teachers during their online discussion boards, chats, and conferences, all of our teachers and professional support staff are available to you via email. Our entire faculty and staff are regularly checking their email and will get back to you in order to answer your questions or address any concerns that you might have. We are truly so fortunate to have such an amazing group of individuals working with our children.

In particular, please know that if your children should feel anxious and worried, both of our counselors, Mrs. Sanders and Mr. Cinelli, and our Child Study Team Case Managers will be available by email, as well. They will be happy to reach out to any student who may need to just talk with a trusted and familiar adult about what we are all facing in the world today.

We also realize that everyone is worried today to a certain degree. As soon as a child or family member coughs, we stop and worry. And the media does not help. We all need to turn the news off for the better part of the day. Our children do not need to hear more news that can scare them. Our children’s schedules are uprooted enough with school being cancelled, as well as their after school activities and sports. It is a difficult adjustment for them, along with all of us.

The best thing that you can do right now is try and keep a schedule at home for your children in order to attempt a bit of normalcy and routine. Again, it is easy to get

caught up in fears and misinformation. So now is a time to just be attentive and prepared. Please remember, that even with all of the closures in place in our community, we are still being reminded that the risk of becoming infected is low. The precautions are in place to lessen possible exposure and flatten the number of positive cases. Experts remind us most people who contract COVID-19 will only experience mild to moderate symptoms and will recover without complications. Social distancing, avoiding large gatherings, staying home when we are sick, and proper hygiene (including proper hand-washing and coughing/sneezing into a tissue or our sleeve) are the most important things for all of us to do in order to look out for our family, our elderly population and individuals with underlying health conditions.

At this time, we just all need to stay positive. Take this opportunity to enjoy the extra time with your family. Prepare a dinner together. Watch a movie together or binge watch a show together on Disney+ or Netflix! Get out that board game you haven't played together as a family in a long time and have a game night again! Take a deep breath and then enjoy a good book – and enjoy reading lots of stories aloud to your younger children. It's time to be creative -- and be a family.

As parents, maybe this is a chance to spend some extra time with our children helping them with their school work – and extra time to just talk. Time that we possibly didn't have before in our busy lives. Remember to limit the social media and spend time with your family doing things you probably wouldn't have been doing if the Coronavirus didn't invade our normal lives.

Some things, like this, are simply out of our control. And we know that most of us hate not being in control! But remember, this, too, shall eventually pass. And hopefully we will learn a lot from this experience. In all areas around the world, different lessons will be learned. Something good always comes out of everything. Just think, we have even re-discovered the critical importance of thorough hand-washing that all of us are now taking to a new level. Now we even know the importance of the “20-second rule” for hand-washing with soap and water – and that if we need hand sanitizer, it needs to be at least 60% alcohol!

But, remember, while this is all bigger than us right now, we will get through it together – as an extended family, as a community. This incredible community came through Hurricane Sandy together – now we will get through COVID-19.

Again, we are here for our students and for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if we can help you in any way.

For now, take care of yourselves and your families – and stay healthy!

We miss our students and look forward to having them back in our hallways soon!

Warmest regards,
Colleen Graziano
Richard Kirk
Justin Roach
Margaret Polak