

# Millstone Township School District

5 Dawson Court,  
Millstone Township, NJ 08535

Christopher Huss, EdD  
Superintendent of Schools  
Phone: (732) 786-0950 Ext. 51010  
Email: [chuss@millstone.k12.nj.us](mailto:chuss@millstone.k12.nj.us)



Bernard Biesiada  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Phone: (732) 786-0950 Ext. 51002  
Email: [bbiesiada@millstone.k12.nj.us](mailto:bbiesiada@millstone.k12.nj.us)

March 13, 2020

Good Afternoon Millstone Families,

Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, all of the schools in Millstone Township School District will close its buildings to students and non-essential personnel. During this time, we will activate at-home/virtual learning for instruction. This was a multi-faceted decision made in consultation with the Monmouth County Health Officer and Monmouth County Superintendents and in collaboration with Mr. Guterl from Upper Freehold Regional School District. The decision is based upon growing research indicating that social distancing is an effective strategy that currently impacts the eventual spread of COVID-19. Therefore, the best time to close schools is before this spread happens.

This decision did not come lightly, but we felt compelled to do everything we can to fight any community spread that may occur. This decision was made for the safety of our kids, staff, and communities. We know that this will be challenging for our families and for our staff. Although we do not have a confirmed case yet, if we wait until one is identified it will be too late to stop the spread of this highly contagious virus. Additionally, it is becoming increasingly difficult to track the degrees of separation between positive cases in NJ and our residents.

Beginning Monday, March 16th, our at-home/virtual learning plan will begin. More detailed information is forthcoming from your building Principals and teachers. By their very nature, public schools are designed for active and collaborative learning with many opportunities for social interaction. Our remote and virtual learning plans will certainly not be equal to face-to-face instruction, but we will do our best to continue the education of our kids.

From Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020 we will provide at-home/virtual learning. During this time, we will continually be assessing whether to reopen school on March 30, 2020. This decision will be made based upon the recommendations of health department officials and in collaboration with Mr. Guterl from Upper Freehold Regional School District. Please note that remote learning days will fulfill the 180-day requirement under N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

According to several sources, closing schools is a proven measure to slow the spread of the disease and, in turn, keep more students, staff, and families healthy and safe. Therefore, this closure will include the cancellation or postponement of all after-school, evening, and weekend activities. All facility use events and rental activities will be cancelled as well.

We know we cannot fully replace the live classroom experiences that organically occur with teacher-student interactions and connections. We also know that we are charting unexplored territory as we implement remote learning for our students. How we implement this plan will continually evolve as we have more experience with it.

Please know we are here for you and will navigate this together! Right now, buildings will remain open with some essential staff which will allow us to carry on with the “business” end of school. We will also be available to answer questions you may have.

The Millstone township Schools are also working closely with Maschio’s, our food service vendor, to devise a plan for daily lunch delivery to participants of the free and reduced lunch program throughout these remote learning school days. A separate communication will be sent to the parents of program participants.

Finally, the Principals of each building and your child’s teachers will send out follow-up letters outlining the details of at-home instruction. I will continue to communicate district-wide details with you throughout this process as well. This is a trying time for our community and especially our kids. They thrive off routines and consistency which are being tremendously disrupted. I am confident, however, that by working together we will overcome and be stronger for it in the end... #proud2bMillstone now more than ever.

Stay well,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Huss".

Dr. Chris Huss  
Superintendent of Schools