

# GLEN ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Glen Rock Schools Community,

For the first time in the history of Glen Rock Schools, we will be conducting virtual/online school. Believe it or not, this is something that Glen Rock Schools have been preparing for since we began incorporating digital texts and resources into our curriculum over the past ten years. Two years ago, the district implemented a learning management system, called Schoology, to create a student friendly approach to coordinating all the digital texts and online resources. The district has worked towards increasing the availability and use of laptops and chromebooks to advance the use of instructional technology in the K-12 classroom. So, we are instructionally ready for this unique situation. Below, please find some frequently asked questions that administration received from parents and students about what to expect during this closure.

## **Do the days count toward the 180 day state requirement?**

Yes, these days will count towards the 180 day state requirement as per the [announcement from the NJ Dept of Education on March 5th](#). In other words, these COVID-19 closure days are to be considered school days. Students will have work to do with the goal of making continued educational progress for each student during each day Glen Rock Schools are closed.

## **Will we lose spring break or change the date of graduation?**

No, at this point there are no plans for any calendar changes since the closure days count toward the 180 day requirement. However, this is an evolving situation that can and probably will change by the day.

## **Could this last longer than two weeks and what would happen if it did?**

This is a new and unique challenge for all districts and we are following the daily updates and directives from state officials. The impact of the virus is unpredictable at this point in time. As we receive ongoing official updates and directives which impact

our schools and students, we will continually reevaluate plans and adjust accordingly. That being said, the district will be prepared to continue meaningful and engaging instruction with the Schoology platform. Ongoing and timely communication from the district will keep the Glen Rock community informed of any changes.

### **How much time will students spend engaged in learning activities each day?**

Students, depending on the grade level, will be engaged in learning activities for 4-6 hours each school day. Teachers are planning a variety of activities that should take students about 30-55 minutes per class each day. Parents are encouraged to help their students establish a routine and work area to complete their learning activities. Students will begin virtual learning on Tuesday, March 17th, 2020.

### **How will I know what daily learning activities have been assigned?**

Teachers will post daily learning activities and assignments on Schoology using “Updates” and/or the “Calendar”. This is the same procedure that has been expected and used by teachers over the past two years in the upper elementary to high school levels. The K-2 teachers are using a combination of posting on “Updates” and packets of learning activities which were sent home on Friday.

### **Are there specific times that a student needs to be online?**

Yes and no - again depending on the grade level. Our teachers will design virtual learning activities in two ways. One way is through **synchronous** learning, which means that all students will be required to be virtually present in a chat room or online platform in order to interact with their teacher and students in real-time. At the High School and Middle School, teachers have been instructed to schedule all synchronous learning to be aligned with the bell schedule so that students are not double booked with synchronous learning appointments. The other method of virtual learning design is called **asynchronous**. In this method, teachers, including all elementary staff, design experiences that can be completed anytime throughout the day without the need for real-time, live feedback. Many teachers will be using this asynchronous method or a mixture of both methods. Teachers will be reaching out to all of their students and parents with information regarding the expectations for their class.

### **What type of learning activities will students be doing?**

Students will be engaged in a variety of learning activities both online and offline. While online, students will access digital textbooks, instructional videos, teacher created content and commercially developed digital instructional materials. Students will create

a variety of different forms of content including digital portfolios, online discussions, writings, presentations, videos and podcasts. Many teachers have identified content specific software and websites that your students will utilize. Students may also be assigned other offline activities such as journaling physical activity for their physical education class or cooking for their family & consumer science class.

Elementary students will stay on their usual weekly schedule with specials (Library, PE, Art, Music) which they can access from their teacher's page. The links will take them to the specialist's page for planned activities.

Elementary students in BSI Reading, BSI Math, Special Education, Spanish, and ESL will also be able to link for instruction from these specialists.

### **What do I do if I have technical difficulties?**

Our IT Department is still open during the closure. Any student that is experiencing issues with their Chromebook / Laptop should contact the IT Department at [helpdesk@glenrocknj.org](mailto:helpdesk@glenrocknj.org). In addition, Altice is offering WiFi service to customers and residents during the response period for those without home internet access. Please contact the [helpdesk@glenrocknj.org](mailto:helpdesk@glenrocknj.org) so that they can facilitate getting access for your child.

### **Who should be contacted if a student needs academic or emotional support?**

This school closure and shift to virtual instruction is a major life change for students, parents, and staff. We are here to help. If any student is having a difficult time academically or emotionally adapting to this change, please do not hesitate to contact the Guidance Department. Counselors will be reaching out at varied intervals to keep in touch and to check on students, and are available to assist students and parents during this closure through either online interactions or phone conferences.

Byrd Guidance Counselor: Garrett Avitable, [avitableg@glenrocknj.org](mailto:avitableg@glenrocknj.org)

Central Guidance Counselor: Ann Chon, [chona@glenrocknj.org](mailto:chona@glenrocknj.org)

Coleman Guidance Counselor: Chrisanne Moger, [mogerc@glenrocknj.org](mailto:mogerc@glenrocknj.org)

Hamilton Guidance Counselor: Jessica Falkenstern, [falkensternj@glenrocknj.org](mailto:falkensternj@glenrocknj.org)

Middle School Guidance: Staff Listing, <http://middleschool.glenrocknj.org/guidance>

High School Guidance: Staff Listing, <http://highschool.glenrocknj.org/guidance>

## **Who should be contacted if a special education student needs academic or emotional support?**

The Glen Rock Special Services Department is working in our full capacity during school closure. If any student is having a difficult time with the transition to online learning, please do not hesitate to contact your Case Manager or Sage Counselor. Please see the [staff listing for Special Services](#).

## **Who else is available for assistance from the school during the closure?**

The Glen Rock central office and building administrative teams are working in our full capacity during this closure. Feel free to contact the appropriate administrator, **via email**, for assistance with any needs while schools are closed.

## **What about sports/playgrounds, etc?**

Please follow federal, state, and local guidance regarding COVID-19. Please do not congregate on and off school property. In fact, no student, parent, or member of the community is permitted on any district property during this closure. This includes fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, etc. **Simply stated, everything is closed.**

During the closure, formal and informal practices for all sports teams are not to be held. This includes “captain’s practices”.

## **We are in this together!**

Thank you for your support during these difficult and challenging times. We are doing our best to try to ensure normalcy and a continuity of education for your children. We will reevaluate each day and make adjustments as needed. We are in uncharted territory and we appreciate your support and cooperation. Please continue to follow district and school social media, as well as the comprehensive district communications page at <https://www.glenrocknj.org/communications>. You can expect additional communication from me and the building principals daily throughout the closure.  
We are Glen Rock Schools!

Sincerely,

*Brett Charleston*

Dr. Brett Charleston  
Superintendent of Schools