



## PLEASE READ: IMPORTANT MESSAGE

COVID-19 Update

March 11, 2020

### Message from the Superintendent

Dear River Vale Community Members,

We remain watchful and concerned regarding the national COVID-19 outbreak. As we've learned from the news media, there are several cases in Bergen County and in neighboring Rockland and Westchester Counties.



Frank Alvarez,  
Ed.D.

The administrative team has prepared a plan to provide for home learning instruction using on-line resources, in the event the Department of Health orders a school closure. The Home Learning Plan was presented at last night's Board Meeting. On Thursday afternoon, teachers will begin designing on-line plans for a two-week period. I am confident we will be well prepared if we need to close schools.

I have sent several messages to the parent community over the last few weeks. We continue to clean all surfaces during the course of the day and to disinfect all areas nightly. We continue to reinforce healthy practices with students and staff. Additionally, administrators have been speaking to individual families and, in some cases, encouraging students to stay home.

While regular attendance directly impacts student achievement, it is important for parents to keep children home from school if they are ill with symptoms of any communicable disease. If you choose to keep your child home, please notify our school nurse of the presenting symptoms. The staff will document for consideration of an administratively excused absence in case of excessive absences. If any family members have traveled or have come in contact with others who have traveled to areas impacted by the outbreak, please communicate this information to your school principal.

Several parents have asked about field trips. We are currently moving forward on all planned outings. We will make decisions on a case-by-case basis as the date of each field trip nears, as the situation is literally changing by the minute. School principals and teachers will communicate with parents of students involved as soon as a decision is made.

At this time, there are no reported cases in River Vale and no evidence for school administrators to issue any further restrictions. Please be assured we are taking this matter seriously and continue to track information from State and Federal sources.

Sincerely,

Frank Alvarez, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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