



# BYRAM HILLS

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 TRIPP LANE ARMONK, NY 10504

March 22, 2020

To the Byram Hills School Community,

Today a high school student emailed me and asked when I thought we could return to school. He was concerned about government and health officials' predictions about the duration of the coronavirus. At this point, it is uncertain whether or not the Governor or County Executive will continue to close schools, which is a difficult concept for us all to consider. I am hopeful that our leaders in government and industry will provide us with right advancements to propel our nation forward. Until then, please know that the faculty, staff, and administration endeavor to create an e-learning environment for our children that continues our focus on the whole child. Byram Hills is making great strides, even though we have only been utilizing e-learning for three days.

Plans for professional development to support teachers and enhance e-learning are already in place. Our school instruction prides itself on conceptual learning, critical thinking, and student engagement, which is why time for the evolution of the school environment is important. First, we had to design the instruction. Next, we needed to provide learning opportunities for our technology needs. Workshops for teachers include a suite of activities throughout the next few weeks, such as: using new technology tools (Google Meet, Zoom, and screencasting); online instructional methods (creating differentiated tasks, rigor in a remote setting, and filming and editing videos), and the sharing of successful practices. Our teachers are stretching themselves to find ways to connect with their students.

Our goal as educators is to maintain a virtual sense of community, provide opportunities for kids to connect with teachers and each other, and maintain a high level of engagement with the content.

Every day last week I saw teachers learning new tools to provide new experiences. Our goals for the coming weeks include connecting with students. Examples of this include messages, video messages, lessons, and synchronous sessions depending on the grade level. We seek ways to facilitate deep learning in the content. Parents will be provided with expectations for grade levels, buildings, or departments within the coming days.

Thank you for your support of our school community, our progress, and our work to come. We care deeply about your children and we miss them.

Sincerely,

Jen Lamia, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools