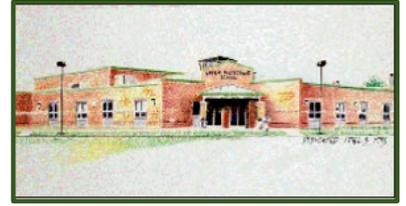


Upper Pittsgrove School District

235 Pine Tavern Road • Monroeville, NJ 08343 • (856) 358-8163
www.upsnj.org



March 20, 2020

Good afternoon Upper Pittsgrove Families,

Before I begin, I'd like to thank all of you for your patience and understanding as we work through this uncharted territory. It's been quite a week; teachers are working hard to make sure that students have everything they need as Mr. McFarland and I meet daily to troubleshoot different situations. I know this has been a unique situation for you as well; I'm sure some are ready for kids to go back to school!

As you are aware, school was originally closed through March 27th, then the Governor closed all schools in the state through March 31st. All Upper Pittsgrove students have been given enough work through at least next Friday, March 27, 2020. If the shutdown continues past March 31st, we will send out information on how additional work will be disseminated. Currently, teachers are hard at work checking in with families and students and continually learning new ways to navigate distance learning.

Moving forward through this process will be new for all of us, but there are a few things that are necessary and will ease the stress on us all.

1. Make a space in your house where your child(ren) are organized and can easily access their schoolwork. This provides the structure and organization needed during this time.
2. Check in with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) at least once per week. This will ensure that everyone is on the same page and up-to-date with assignments.
3. Please fill out the surveys from Blackboard Connect. It is imperative that we receive feedback from you through this outlet, so we know where we need to troubleshoot and assist. If you cannot access this form, please contact Mr. McFarland or me.
4. Teachers should be your first point-of-contact. Please know that they are working hard to support many families/students each day. If you are having difficulty connecting with a staff member, please contact Mr. McFarland or me.
5. It is important for students to find a balance between work time and free time. Assignments should be a priority but being active and exercising is also a priority.
6. Please make sure to utilize the special area teachers' work, as well as classroom assignments.
7. As this shutdown affects families in many different ways, please contact me or Mr. McFarland if your family would like to apply for free or reduced meals. The School is continuing to supply meals to families on a weekly basis.

Remember that we are all in this together and having patience, understanding, and flexibility is key. I will be updating you as we receive updates from the state. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the staff or administration. I can be reached via email at seckstein@upsmailbox.net; Mr. McFarland can also be reached via email at pmcfarland@upsmailbox.net

Sincerely,

Scott Eckstein

"An excellent education within a caring community!"