

Memo

To: Harrison Township School Families
From: Harrison Township School District Administrators
Date: December 2020
Re: Emergency Closures for the 2020-2021 School Year

The purpose of this memo is to outline the procedure that will be followed in the event of inclement weather.

The Department of Education has determined and communicated the following regarding emergency closures for the 2020-2021 academic year:

Because we are still under a public health emergency, school districts can provide remote instruction in lieu of a snow day this year. When we are no longer under this public health emergency, the authorization to use virtual/remote instruction in lieu of a snow day will only apply if the district is closed for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, per N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9, P.L.2020, c.27 (A3904). Information about inclement weather can be found on our FAQs page: <https://nj.gov/education/reopening/faqs/index.shtml> (please check under the "Instruction Provided to Students in Remote Learning Environments" section).

In the event that it is determined that road conditions may be unsafe, an “emergency virtual day” will be called for the district. **All staff and students will participate virtually from their homes.**

According to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3, a school day shall consist of not less than four hours. In order to fulfill this requirement, *students will receive a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction* .

Please note the following details below:

- All staff will be available via email from 8:30-3:00 p.m.

- **Homeroom: Homeroom teachers will convene both the AM and PM classes together for a check in, which will include live instruction from 9-9:45 a.m. for all students.** Each homeroom teacher will also post a Reading/English Language Arts and Math assignment to Seesaw (Grades Pre-K-3) or Google Classroom (Grades 4-6).
- **Science, Social Studies, Special Area Assignment(s) and Office Hours:** Science, Social Studies, and Special Area Teachers will post an asynchronous assignment to Seesaw (Grades Pre-K-3) or Google Classroom (Grades 4-6). Students are only responsible for the classes that they have on that day of the cycle. Additionally, Science, Social Studies, and special area teachers are available for “office hours” from 1-1:45 p.m. During this time, any student may log onto their teacher’s live zoom link for further clarification or help with the posted assignment.
- **Basic Skills Teachers, Speech, Therapists:** Teachers will post an asynchronous assignment for any basic skills student, speech student, or student receiving other related services on the scheduled day to Seesaw (Grades Pre-K-3) or Google Classroom (Grades 4-6). Additionally, teachers and/or therapists are available for “Office Hours” from 1:45-2:15 p.m. During this time, any student may log onto their teacher’s live zoom link for further clarification or help with the posted assignment.
- **Guidance Counselors:** Counselors are accessible via email. They also have scheduled Office Hours from 10:00-10:45 a.m.

Please note that this procedure will be followed for ANY weather related virtual day that may become necessary for the CURRENT academic year. Thank you for your continued support of the Harrison Township School District.