



HILLSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Pathways, New Possibilities
2020-2021 School Year

Mr. A. Robert Gregory
Acting Superintendent of Schools

November 2, 2020

Dear Hillside Public Schools Community,

As we continue to navigate unparalleled territories amidst an unthinking and dynamic global pandemic, the health and safety of our staff, students, and families remains of utmost importance. To that end, the **Hillside Public Schools will continue to implement remote/virtual instruction throughout the 2nd Marking Period which concludes on February 2, 2021.** All Hillside Public School facilities will remain closed for “in-person” instruction and activities until further notice. We will provide the community an update on future instructional plans on January 15, 2021.

Over the past 7 weeks, I have had the opportunity to visit virtual classrooms throughout the district. I have been extremely proud of the resilience of our staff, families, and community, who continue to work together to help educate our students. I’d like to thank our parents and caretakers for your continued support, partnership, and patience as our teachers, support staff, and school leaders have been working diligently to provide our students a quality virtual learning experience.

This week, all schools will be closed for virtual instruction on Election Day, November 3rd, and for NJEA Conferences on November 5th-6th, 2020. Virtual instruction will resume on November 9th. All Pre-K – 8th grade students will follow our Early Dismissal Virtual Schedule on November 10, 11, and 12, 2020 for Parent Teacher Conferences. All high school students will have an Early Dismissal on November 17, for Parent Teacher Conferences.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held virtually this fall. Parents and caretakers can log into the Parent Portal of Genesis to schedule face to face virtual conferences with each of your child’s teachers. The Schedule Conference option opens in Genesis at 9 AM on November 3, 2020. **Directions for scheduling conferences have been emailed to families and placed on our website as an alert.** We encourage families who need assistance registering for Parent Portal in Genesis, to contact your child’s school.

All Pre-K – 8th Grade families have until November 8, 2020 to schedule conferences. All High School families have until November 15, 2020 to schedule conferences. Teachers will be using *Google Meets* to host virtual conferences and will send links to families once they are scheduled. **Families will be afforded the time needed to meet with each teacher if the scheduled times allocated does not suffice.**

Finally, our **Virtual Learning Homework Help Centers for all students in 2nd -12th Grade will launch on November 16, 2020.** Information regarding Virtual Homework Help Centers will be placed on our website and emailed to families on November 13, 2020. Additionally, high school co-curricular virtual activities will resume in November.

In closing, we remain committed to transforming and improving the educational experience of all students and families in the Hillside Public Schools while keeping the health and safety of our community at the forefront of the decisions we make. We would like to thank our families for their continued understanding, sacrifices, and efforts. Let us continue to work together to ensure we propel our students into successful futures. **As always, a better tomorrow starts with us today.**

Educationally yours,

A. Robert Gregory
Acting Superintendent