

# Miller Place Union Free School District

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April 16, 2020

RE: Extended School Closure until May 15, 2020

Dear Miller Place School District Community,

This afternoon, Governor Cuomo announced that “New York Pause” would remain in effect until May 15, 2020. This requires schools statewide to remain closed. Therefore, the District is mandated to maintain distance learning instruction, the “Grab and Go” food service program, and emergency childcare services for first responders. We are waiting to receive a copy of the Governor’s executive order to determine if there are any other education related items included in this new directive.

## What does this mean for us?

Together, the District will be recalibrating, reorganizing, and retooling our distance learning initiative. In doing so, there are several important variables to identify:

- Although we are only on day 9, it may feel as if is day 1,009. Take a deep breath.
- This is emergency remote “away from the classroom” learning environment. Distance learning is designed to be an extension of the classroom. It is not designed to be the classroom, although that is what we—alongside every school district in NYS—are attempting to do during a pandemic. We understand that it is nearly impossible for the majority of parents to replicate our classrooms within your homes, and we do not expect you to.
- In a matter of weeks, our teachers have learned, and will continue to learn, how to deliver instruction in an entirely new student learning environment. Our faculty is working extremely hard developing new technology skills, adapting lessons and revising curriculum. We recognize this is a major shift in students learning, teachers teaching and, in many cases, parents becoming home instructors.

## Where do we go from here?

As students need to be engaged in learning, and understanding this has not been going as planned, over the next few days the District is going to:

- Slow down the posting of lessons and assignments

- Look for a gauge to measure the amount of time it takes a student to complete an assignment remotely, as compared to the amount of time it would take to complete in our classrooms
- Work towards a system that can assist students in reestablishing routines regarding assignments
- Reassess how to maintain flexibility while still have consistency of instruction.
- Find a balance to transition with fairness, and the most equal and equitable fashion for students and teachers.

We knew we would need to make modifications and adjustments as we implemented this emergency distance learning initiative. We never planned for this roll out to be during a public health crisis. As with all new initiatives, we will continue to implement, evaluate, modify and reimplement our practices and procedures. Our goal is to improve each day.

Students and parents can expect to receive updated information from your teachers, principals and me regarding changes that will be implemented in the near future.

On behalf of the Board of Education and myself, we are extremely appreciative to have a school community who has come together as colleagues, friends, and family to support our students and one another. We are so proud of everyone's resilience during this time.

For your reference, a copy of this message has been posted on the District website and Facebook page.

Thank you and please stay safe,

Dr. Marianne Cartisano,  
Superintendent of Schools