



Harbor School

Providing Excellence in Special Education Since 1969

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Affiliated with Gateway School, Carteret, NJ & Alpha School, Jackson, NJ

Dear Staff, Parents and Guardians,

April 20, 2020

On April 16, 2020, Governor Murphy announced that New Jersey Schools would remain closed, relying on virtual and remote instruction for at least another month. This perhaps leaves a glimmer of possibility that schools could come back for a month, allowing for some face to face instruction as well as for our special graduations.

However, many states have taken action to close for the remainder of the academic school year. New Jersey's more deliberate approach means another four weeks of our Virtual Home Learning Plan. A decision will be announced by Governor Murphy on May 15, 2020, providing one more opportunity to reassess if it is safe to reopen, as safety is paramount for our students, families and staff.

Harbor, Alpha and Gateway Schools will continue to do everything to support students, families and staff for the duration of this challenging situation. I am confident our staff is committed to providing meaningful and creative virtual instruction for students. I am impressed with how our staff has come together to provide a thoughtful virtual learning climate and make connections with students in many ways, all while recognizing the balance and impact on families.

I would like to share that Harbor, Alpha and Gateway Schools will continue to be proactive, creating and preparing contingency plans for graduation in the event we do not return. While a decision may be to postpone graduation ceremonies until July or August, we may want to recognize these milestones in June with unique opportunities, while at the same time meeting social distancing guidelines. Some of our staff have started putting together creative ideas. I welcome families and all staff to join these efforts, sharing thoughts and ideas as well.

Thank you again for your support and understanding during this time. I acknowledge and appreciate all that everyone is doing. As always, we are here for you.

Sincerely,

Dana Giblin

Program Director