March 18, 2020

Dear Fort Lee Families,

To start, I would like to thank everyone for their efforts in the planning and execution of the home instruction plan. This was truly a team effort, and everyone has exemplified what it means to be part of the Fort Lee Public Schools community. Our entire staff has displayed critical thinking, resilience, empathy, and creativity, setting a fine example of the qualities we strive to foster in our students. I want to thank the families, both students and parents, for accepting this new challenge with such grace, patience, and understanding.

Information about our schools as it relates to this emergency will come directly from the school district. Instructional information will be sent from the teachers and your child’s school. Additionally, I will continue to send information to keep you up-to-date and informed. Please check the borough and school district websites.

REMINDER: The school buildings, fields and playgrounds are closed. This is a serious public health emergency and we need everyone to follow all of the guidance being issued. According to the public health officials, the best advice is to avoid contact with others. While I know that this is challenging, especially for our students, it is necessary. As I have said before, the quicker we halt the spread of this virus, the sooner we can get back to normal.

Remember to stay in touch via technology. While we may not be able to visit each other and engage in face-to-face interactions, it is important that we connect in other ways. Maintaining our relationships is critical at times like these.

Additionally on the topic of relationships, earlier today the district sent out an email with information regarding social and emotional wellness during this time. Please take the time to review the links and talk with your children to address the stress and anxiety we are all feeling. Don’t forget to take care of yourself. An additional link for information and support is Zensational Kids.
Details can be found through this link.

https://zensationalkids.com/mindful-tools-call/

There are many activities that can still be utilized during this crisis. Try a virtual field trip through “adventuresinfamilyhood.com”. While the weather cooperates, take a walk or decorate your driveway with sidewalk chalk. Board games, etc, are still my personal favorite. Try a family game of Jenga.

While you have time, visit the Census 2020 website at 2020census.gov and get familiar with the information. You may have already received your invitation to participate in the mail. I urge you to take a few minutes to complete it. I completed mine yesterday in less than 20 minutes. Take the opportunity to talk with your child about the census.

I continue to encourage all residents in the community to sign up for the nixle alert notice system at nixle.com or by texting 07024 to 888777. Please do this immediately so that you can get vital notifications and information about the borough as it pertains to this public health crisis.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this challenging time. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Rota
Superintendent of Schools