



March 9, 2020

Dear OPS Community Members,

On the first day of Kindergarten, I visit each classroom and share that my number one job as principal is to keep students physically and emotionally safe. With the ongoing news coverage regarding increased cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), I wanted to share about our ongoing protocols at OPS and additional precautions that have been put in place to keep our students and our staff healthy.

Ongoing Routines:

- All classrooms and hallways have hand sanitizer wall stations, and we have additional hand sanitizer on site.
- Each day, all classroom desks and table surfaces are wiped down by our custodial staff.
- Lunch tables are wiped down between each lunch session. This is done year-round as part of our food allergy precautions.
- We regularly monitor attendance to identify pockets of concern (i.e. multiple cases of a specific illness). If a pattern is detected, we utilize an electrostatic, disinfectant sprayer on all surfaces in classrooms of concern, hallways of identified grade level, etc.
- All students from the moment they enter OPS are taught to sneeze and/or cough into their elbow.

Additional Precautions Put in Place:

- Classroom teachers have put additional emphasis on the importance of hand-washing, keeping hands away from eyes and mouth and covering your cough. Administration and the school nurse will visit all classrooms (K-6) this week to reiterate how to best keep yourself healthy and to answer any questions regarding coronavirus in grades 4-6.
- We have numerous field trips coming up. All classes will take hand-sanitizing wipes with them. All students will wipe hands before getting back on the bus to return to school. Additionally, all field trip sites have been called to clarify the procedures they utilize for cleaning. For example, when our first graders go to their field trip, we know that we are the only school there. They disinfectant daily after each school leaves, and there are sinks with soap in every learning location and hand-sanitizing stations throughout the site.
- Our lunch vendor is currently placing all utensils and fruit on student trays so there is no grabbing for materials from a common location.
- We have purchased additional tissues for each classroom to encourage students to sneeze or cough into a tissue whenever possible as the virus does live on clothing.
- Multi-grade spaces (i.e. the library, art room, health office, bathrooms, etc.) will be sanitized on a regular basis utilizing the electrostatic sprayer. Additionally, extra focus is being given to door knobs and bathrooms. This weekend all hallways and lockers were also cleaned, and we used the sprayer on the bus before students left for their trip.
- Any student who shows symptoms of concern will be placed in an isolated area until a parent can pick them up from school.



Even with the precautions put in place, there is the possibility that schools could be closed for a short period of time. In case that occurs, we are creating a plan for how learning could continue at home. As we move forward, we need your help as well.

How can you help?

- Keep your children home when they are sick. As we have shared before, students should be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
- Make sure your child is not wearing the same sweatshirt into the classroom each day without it being washed daily as we know the coronavirus can live on clothing.
- Stay informed with information from a reputable source. The NJ Health Department is providing regular updates that can be found [here](#).
- Stay calm. Your children hear everything; therefore, please be cognizant of what they are viewing on the television or on the computer.
- Be honest with them regarding how coronavirus is transmitted and how they can keep themselves safe in an age appropriate manner. You can find tips for how to do this [here](#).
- In the case of a school closure where work will occur at home, we need help in identifying families who may not have access to a technology device or internet at home. Students in grades 3-6 will be provided the opportunity to bring their school laptop home. If your child in grades K-2 does not have access to a computer or tablet at home or internet capability at home is a concern, please email techneeds@oradellschool.org stating your child's name, grade and what you would need for your child to be able to access a digital curriculum.

We are a home and school partnership with one goal – doing the best for the children of OPS. We will continue to refine our practices based on suggestions received from professionals around us, and we will keep you informed of any new protocol changes implemented. As always, know that every decision we make is made because we believe it is best for children.

Sincerely,

Megan N. Bozios