



Oradell Public School District

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*Our children, our hope, our future*

March 20, 2020

Dear OPS Community,

As this first week of our remote learning journey comes to a close, we are in an even more uncertain time than when we began. Yet, there is one thing we can be sure. We can be sure that every member of our community – staff members, family members and students – are pushing themselves to do their very best. It is hard to keep pushing. It is hard to be perfect when the world around you is imperfect right now.

I am so proud to serve as principal of this community. I, like each of you, started this week wanting everything to go smoothly academically for our children. I end this week just wanting to give each of them a hug (which based on the photos you've shared will be done with them in their pajamas)! The safety and health of our children is our number one priority. For their health and safety, it is imperative that you minimize contact this weekend. Your children are going to ask to have a play-date, and you need to have the strength to say no. Send them out in the backyard to play or see the PTA's email from today or the Borough website for additional non-screen ideas. For their emotional safety, minimize their contact with the news and filter your comments around them. Most importantly, as a family, find a way to decompress. Please don't have your child do "school work" this weekend. They need to relax just like us.

Everything I want for our families, I also want for our staff. I have directed teachers to not work or respond to emails this weekend. They, too, need to be with their families. They, too, need to relax. This is not a race, and we need to stay healthy and strong so we can continue to support our children moving forward. If there is a true emergency, you can email me directly with the concern.

When we set this year's theme last June, we had no clue what the future would hold. However, it seems so fitting that we choose "Moving Forward Together" because that is exactly what we will need to keep doing.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

*Megan N. Bozios*