



## Oradell Public School District

*Our children, our hope, our future*

April 3, 2020

Dear OPS Community Members,

The past three weeks have been a blur. On the one hand, it feels like we were just handing out packets and laptops on that eventful Friday. On the other hand, it feels like eons since I have seen your children or waved to you at drop-off. Our remote learning journey has been filled with contradictions like that. My child has too much work. My child doesn't have enough work. The one thing that is helping my child is IXL. My child does not learn via IXL. My family needs to disconnect during Spring Break. We should not have a Spring Break.

Well, next week is Spring Break, and teachers have been instructed to not assign mandatory work at the request of the parents who have said, "Please let us relax and decompress." However, I do hear the other side as well. I know that some of you have conference calls and virtual meetings, and you need resources to keep your child engaged. So, we've created an Optional Activities Website, which you can find [here](#) or on the front page of the OPS website. It is split up into several sections:

- **BASIC SKILLS:** For each grade level (PreK-6), there is a link to a week of Scholastic Activities. There is also a link to appropriate grade level skill games.
- **20 MINUTES A DAY:** Keyboarding, geography, and math facts are all great activities to do daily in short bursts.
- **VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS:** There have been a gazillion social media posts and emails going around about places to visit. We identified some of the best for you.
- **BreakoutEDU:** This website has academic games built around an "escape room" theme.
- **NON-SCREEN ACTIVITIES:** Need some ideas for keeping engaged away from the screen, we searched the web and created a list for you.

There are also several optional activities going on that are outlined on the front page of the Additional Learning Website including:

- **STEM CHALLENGE** -- See the Introductory Video [Here](#)
- **LIVE READ ALOUDS & AUDIO BOOK CLUBS** -- See the [Additional Learning Website](#) (*scroll down to the bottom of the site*)

Also, it was announced yesterday that the state will be beginning to do televised instruction beginning on Monday. You can find out more about that [here](#).

These are all just possibilities. We trust in each of you to make decisions that are best for your family. If you need to disconnect, please do so. If you want to encourage your child to spend the week curled up on the couch with a book, go for it. If you think what they need right now is their PlayStation, we get it! However, we wanted to provide you with resources in case you need them. In terms of supports, your family's mental health is also on our minds. Please remember that Ms. Mason's website "[OPS's Counselor's Corner](#)" (which is also on the front page of the OPS website) has information for you. It also includes community supports including information for how to reach out to Mobile Crisis if you believe you or anyone you know is in need.

As I've said previously, none of us has ever done this before. We need to continue to be patient with ourselves and others. We need to remember that if your child can't perfectly convert inches to feet or remember where to put the comma in a compound sentence at the end of this academic year, we'll take care of it next year. What matters most right now is that your child feels safe and loved.

Whether you are a staff member or a parent, know that I am incredibly grateful for how hard you are working for our children. We will keep getting better if we keep moving forward together.

Have a wonderful break and tell your children that I am thinking of them!

*Megan N. Bozios*