



HEROES Academy for the Gifted  
317 George St Suite 210  
New Brunswick, NJ

Dear parents,

Good evening. As I'm sure you're all aware, many schools, children's programs, and business have been announcing closures in the wake of COVID-19. We've been closely monitoring the situation by tracking announcements made by the World Health Organization, the NJDOE, the NJDOH, Governor Murphy, local schools, and local businesses. **After much deliberation, we've concluded that we have no choice but to move to online schooling until further notice.**

### **Why are we moving to online schooling?**

At this time, information regarding COVID-19 is still rapidly evolving. I'm not a health expert, so I can only make decisions based off of the information being provided by the experts. Many questions remain unanswered, but we do know that the only measure truly preventing the spread of COVID-19 is social distancing. The World Health Organization is currently recommending social distancing, remaining at least 3 feet away from others. The CDC is also recommending that we put distance between ourselves and other people. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html> There have been several confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the local area, causing schools that many of our students attend to close. On Thursday, Governor Murphy announced that he is recommending a ban on all gatherings of more than 250 people. The decision to close schools has been left up to the individual schools and districts; that includes us. For a list of NJ school closings, visit <https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2020/03/coronavirus-closures-updated-list-of-nj-school-districts-that-are-closing-map-of-outbreak-thursday-march-12.html>

### **What we are doing:**

Ms. Rita Voit and I are putting together curriculum and activities for your child to complete at home. We did not plan to offer these classes online, and they are not designed as online classes. We've been monitoring this situation over the last week. Like other schools, we've spent the week planning and preparing in case we had to close. I've designed a brand-new learning management system to facilitate online learning for our students. This system will allow students to access assignments and submit assignments. It's going to take us some time to prepare and upload all the material. We also realize that there may be some kinks along the way as this is a brand-new system. We ask for your patience as we figure this out. We'll send out additional e-mails this weekend with information on logging in, course access, uploading assignments, and more. Many of these assignments will require a printer, and students will need to scan assignments to submit them. Please let us know if you're unable to facilitate this so that we can work with you to find a remedy.

### **Library Check-Outs**

School closures are designed to promote social distancing, preventing the virus from spreading from one person to another. Although we will temporarily move to online learning, we'd like to assure you that the library will remain accessible to our students. The library will be open on Saturdays from 12 PM to 2 PM. Students may return their books and check out new books during this time. Students will have a tremendous amount of time at home during these school closures, and we strongly encourage students to spend some of that time reading rather than staring at screens.

Students will be allowed to enter the library in small groups. We encourage students to remain at least 3 feet apart from one another. All students will be given hand sanitizer before entering the facility and upon leaving. Out of an abundance of caution, we will be wiping down book covers with Clorox wipes upon their return. Books that are checked-in will remain "quarantined" until the next library check-out day.

### **Moving Forward**

Information regarding COVID-19 is rapidly developing. We will continue to keep ourselves up-to-date with notifications from the CDC, WHO, NJDOE, NJDOH, and NJ Non-Public Schools Administration. As we gain information, we'll share it with you and keep you up to date on our plans week-to-week. We realize that this move to online-schooling is not ideal, but we will do our best to ensure your child has access to adequate and appropriate learning materials during this time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (732) 690-7991 or e-mail me at [dvoit@njgifted.org](mailto:dvoit@njgifted.org)

Stay healthy!

Miss Danielle Voit

HEROES Academy