



April 22, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Middle School Students,

As you know, earlier this week, Governor Polis extended school closures for the remainder of the school year. Our hearts are saddened with the knowledge we will not see the faces of our beloved students in the hallways again this school year.

Many things take place at this time of year, and we are working out the details of those procedures. We are also dedicated to celebrating our students at the end of this school year! We will share details as they are finalized; however, here are the things we are working on:

End of year celebrations: We are planning for an awards ceremony video that celebrates student's accomplishments. We are also working on details of an 8th-grade graduation ceremony that will still take place on May 19th while following Governor Polis' *Safer at Home* guidelines.

Course selections for next year: Our registrar has moved the entire course selection process to online forms. Families will receive an email later this week with instructions and a link to a *Google Form* course selection sheet.

Honors course applications for 8th grade Honors Science and 8th grade Honors English: 7th English and Science instructors will make applications available through their courses in *Canvas* with details for submission included in the application.

NJHS invitations to apply: Invitations to apply will be sent to students currently in 7th grade who have earned a GPA of 3.85 or above in the first, second, and third quarters. Details for the application process will be embedded in the invitation.

Material return and retrieval: We are working on the processes/procedures for returning iPads/bricks/cords, library books, and textbooks, as well as pick up of personal belongings, yearbooks, and medications, etc. We will communicate as soon as we finalize those details.

As we continue to educate remotely during this time, please reach out to share your experiences. Upon analyzing the results of the middle school survey, it appears that three hours of schoolwork a day is about the right amount during crisis learning and that we are meeting that intention closely. The biggest struggles seem to be technology issues and students missing connections with their peers. Our teachers are increasingly adding more opportunities for *Google Meet* classroom options at varying times of the day for connection purposes. If technology issues are interfering with access to learning, please reach out to me directly so we can problem solve. Emails or phone calls continue to be excellent ways for you to check in with me about concerns, celebrations, or ideas.

As always, thank you for your partnership!

Warm Regards,

Julie Seymour and the Middle School Faculty