



March 27, 2020

Dear Parents,

I just wanted to touch base with you to provide you with some updates.

This week, the administration met to discuss changes in learning and how to continue to support our Special Education programs. The needs of our students continue to be the focus of each building grade/level, and we will continue to support their individual needs.

This week I met (virtually, of course) with the Special Education teachers in each building to receive feedback and determine the needs of our students. Yesterday, I met with the president of GRASE to hear feedback from the parents of our special education students. This information from both of these groups is an important factor as we monitor, plan and move forward. I would ask that you make sure to let the staff know not only the issues that are arising but also the positive things that you are finding from their work.

Many parents and staff have asked about related services and how we will deliver these during our virtual learning. The state of New Jersey does not allow for "teletherapy" services, based on previous litigation. A bill is currently under review and once we receive clarification, we will enact the proper course for each of our students who receive related services through their IEP's. Along with other local districts, I have been in close contact with the County supervisor to voice our concerns about Special Education, related services and virtual learning. Until we receive clarification and guidance from the state, we will continue with our therapists providing lessons (as per your child's IEP), materials, and guidance. If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out directly to the related services therapist (and cc the case manager), as they are available to provide support and assistance.

As virtual learning evolves, we will continue to keep the unique needs of our Special Education students in mind.

Please be well.

Jack

Jack DeWitt
Director of Student Services