Schools Continue Virtual Learning Due to Coronavirus Concerns

The Jericho School District, like most in the nation and world, remains closed due to Coronavirus concerns. The district closed on Thursday, March 12 and has remained closed, under the direction of New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo. He has not been announcing long term closures, but closes schools in two week increments. Currently, New York schools are closed through May 15, and we await further guidance from the state.

During these unprecedented times, the health and safety of our students, parents and staff has been the district’s highest priority. Jericho’s teachers jumped into unchartered territory and didn’t miss a beat – continuing to educate our children through distance learning. Our technology team distributed hundreds of devices to students so they were equipped to learn from home, and our administrators jumped right in to assist in getting the teachers and the staff what they needed to maintain our standards of excellence in a safe environment.

The Jericho Board of Education has been proactive, recognizing the situation and closing schools before New York State did. They also recognized the importance of mental health, granting two days off from distance learning in mid-April.

The world looks very different than it did just two months ago. Everyone is trying to adjust to the new “normal” while still maintaining elements of the life that we knew before the Coronavirus outbreak. The district understands the pressure that is placed on everyone – students trying to adjust to a new way of learning; parents trying to balance a household as well as children’s education; teachers teaching from home with technology that they might not have used before; and many doing this with their own children at home.

We recognize the struggles and appreciate everyone doing their best. As Dr. Gately would say in the Middle School – our personal best is always our goal.

This situation has been ever-changing, but everyone has stepped up to meet the many challenges we’ve faced. We don’t know how long this situation will last, but parents - please do not stress about your child’s academic progress. “We will make sure your child is ready and prepared for the future,” said Superintendent Hank Grishman.

“I have never been more proud to be in Jericho,” continued Mr. Grishman. “This time has been such a challenge, but finding the good has been something we have all been trying to do, and it has been easy to do in Jericho. From teachers finding creative ways to help our children learn; parents sending letters of appreciation to teachers; the community donating food for those less fortunate, or our students, especially our seniors, maintaining poise as we navigate this. There is no other place like Jericho.”

Inside This Issue of Jericho School News...

This issue of the Jericho School News is being circulated digitally. We hope to offer important information for Jericho’s staff, parents, and community. Although these times are unprecedented, we hope to maintain some sense of normalcy. Please continue to check our website for the most up-to-date information, and we will share news through email.
HS Student Prints Important Supplies

Dylan Patel, a Jericho High School sophomore, felt helpless when the Coronavirus pandemic hit the area, as most of us did. “I heard Governor Cuomo say that we can all do our part by staying home and practicing social distancing,” Patel said. “But, sitting home and watching hospitals run out of personal protective equipment made me wonder if I could do more.”

Once Patel heard from his mother, a pharmacist, about the risks that frontline workers were taking to go to work and he saw that the 3D printing community was helping by printing shields and other PPE for hospitals, Patel immediately told his parents that he wanted to help. Patel owned a 3-D printer and purchased a second to increase his production rate. He raised money through a Facebook fundraiser to purchase pricey materials, as well as accepting donations from friends, family strangers, and Jericho High School, which donated transparency sheets for the shields.

When he first started, Patel was printing only one shield per three hours, and now he is printing three per hour. Patel was able to make and distribute over 170 shields in the first week, after struggles with printer profiles and temperature calibration.

“I distributed 72 shields to friends and family who are frontline workers across the country,” said Patel. “Last week, I donated 100 shields to Northwell Health in Bethpage, and I expect to donate another 100 shields next week to NYU Winthrop Hospital. I will continue to donate until this shortage is over.”

Virtual Community Forum Provides Updates

On April 7, Jericho School District’s administration and the Jericho Board of Education held a virtual Community Forum. Superintendent Hank Grishman updated the community on overall aspects of the school closure, thanking the Board of Education for their continued support. Assistant Superintendent Barbara Bauer, Curriculum Associate for School Counseling Greg Sloan, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Kim Conger, and Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs Victor Manuel all provided updates. Board President Bill Ferro thanked the administration and entire staff for their hard work in getting the remote learning up and running, and providing needed instruction for our students.

The full video is available here: https://youtu.be/FkSey5yRtcM

Another Community Forum will be scheduled and information emailed to parents.

Parade Coming 5/5

The Jericho Middle School and High School teachers will be parading through Jericho on Friday, May 5. Check your email for times and routes! Remember to practice social distancing while you honk and wave to your teachers!
**Jericho Community Helps Those In Need**

A food drive was held at the beginning of April to help feed Jericho families in need. Jericho resident Margaret Aaron spearheaded the efforts and has been sorting and delivering the collected items. So many families donated food and other necessities. Thank you for your generosity! We plan on doing another collection in May and will send an email with information.

---

**News from the Jericho Public Library**

The Jericho Library is here to help you do your school work and fill your spare time while you're at home – just go to our website at www.jericholibrary.org. Download our mobile app and keep the library in the palm of your hand. If you don't have a library card, you can apply for a Virtual Card on our website. Download digital and audio books as well as magazines 24/7. Our databases offer research and information on many subjects. You can now “Chat with a Librarian” to answer your questions; find “Virtual Programs” on our Event Calendar; and tutor.com puts you directly in touch with a teacher. From kindergarten through 12th grade the library is here for you.
Jericho Receives Top Ranking
By US News & World Report

Jericho High School was ranked the second best high school with
open-enrollment in New York State in the US News & Worlds Report
ranking, which was released earlier this week. Jericho ranked 127th
nationally and 13th in New York State. Students in many of the
schools in New York state that rank above Jericho are admitted based
on application.

The rankings include data on more than 24,000 public high schools
in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Jericho’s overall score was
99.29/100.

“We are pleased to be recognized as one of the top high schools in
the country,” said Jericho Superintendent Hank Grishman. “While
we attempt to focus on individual student growth and accomplish-
ments, we are keenly aware of the importance that is placed on such
rankings.”

BUDGET VOTE POSTPONED

The budget vote, that was originally scheduled for
May 19, has been postponed. At this point, New
York State only announced that the vote will take
place after June 1.

The Board voted to adopt the budget at the March
Board of Education meeting.

All information on the budget is available on the
district website, under Announcements.

We will update the website as more information is
made available from New York State.

HS Students Win First Place in Lexus Eco Challenge

A team of scientists from Jericho High
School, named Finding Nano, recently
won first place nationally in the Lexus Eco
challenge. Their project was a study of
wastewater treatment and creating their
own sustainable ultrafiltration membrane
system as well as an app to help residents
monitor water quality.

The Jericho students are Katherine
Zhang (grade 12), Catherine Kim (grade
11), Harrison Kane (grade 10), Riya Patel
(grade 12), Maya Yu (grade 12), Audrey
Zhong (grade 12), and Janice Rateshwar
(grade 10).

In the Lexus Eco Challenge, student
teams tackle environmental issues related
to land, water, air, and climate, and create
Action Plans with practical solutions and
quantifiable results and compete for
prizes.

T-Shirt Sale To Benefit Jericho Residents

These “Jericho Strong” T-shirts are for sale with all proceeds going to help
Jericho residents in need. To purchase a shirt, Venmo payment to
JerichoStrong2020 and include your name, phone number, address and size. The
shirts will be safely delivered once they are in. Please email questions to
JerichoStrong2020@gmail.com. Orders are due May 8.
To introduce his next geometry lesson, which was on cyclic quadrilaterals, Mr. Greg Berry called in reinforcements. New York Mets star first baseman, Pete Alonso, helped Mr. Berry out and jokingly told the students, “If you’re not an engineer, you’re not going to need this stuff!”

Pete also gives a shout out to the Jericho High School baseball team and says he is sorry for the loss of the season. He can’t wait until baseball starts back up.

When Alonso turns it back to Mr. Berry, he stresses that Pete was just kidding about not needing to know the information!

To see the video, check out www.twitter.com/i/status/1250074833574154242

Music Program Receives Honors

Jericho was recently recognized as a “Best Community for Music Education” by the NAMM foundation. NAMM, National Association of Music Merchants, strives to provide high quality musical experiences for all students. This award recognizes and celebrates school districts for their support and commitment to music education and efforts to assure access to music for all students as part of a well-rounded education.

“We are so proud to be recognized as a Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM foundation,” said Kati Behr, Curriculum Associate for Fine & Performing Arts. “Our music faculty strives to provide high quality musical experiences for all students and enjoys tremendous support from the Board of Education, administration, and the community.”

Music Instruction Continues Virtually

Students in Aimee Lillienstein’s orchestra are continuing lessons virtually. Students are submitting recordings of themselves performing selections from the orchestra music, playing along with videos in the “Play along with Ms. Lillienstein” feature in canvas classroom. They are attending live orchestra sessions where they play their instruments together. “During live sessions, all students remain on mute while I play my instrument,” said Aimee Lillienstein. “While I am playing, I am able to watch the students perform their instruments along with me. Even though I can’t hear them play during the live sessions, I am able to watch them and provide guidance based on what I can see. Honestly, seeing students with instruments in their hands making music is the most important and heartwarming aspect of remote teaching.” This Jackson student is enjoying the lesson!
Elementary Honk & Wave Parades Brought Smiles & Tears

On April 8, the three Jericho elementary schools held a Honk & Wave Parade through the community. Lori-Ann Savino, Jericho’s transportation director, carefully routed the parades and had busses leading the parade through the streets. The Jericho Fire Department was amazing, providing assistance as well as trucks in the parade. The kids loved hearing the sirens. The three elementary principals, Ivy Sherman, Gina Faust and Alex Rivera, as well as the teachers, said it was one of the highlights of their careers thus far. Students made signs and cheered as their teachers drove by. Thanks for all who participated. It was an amazing day and another example of the wonderful community that Jericho is.

Learning with a Smile

Robert Seaman students are busy adorning their homes with rainbows to share their hope of returning to school this year. Many have dedicated their rainbows to their teachers for keeping them smiling and to healthcare workers for their bravery. In addition, many students have created signs for their windows to honor healthcare workers, many who are Seaman parents and relatives of Seaman staff members. The Seaman staff created a video for their students to remind them of how much they miss them. In addition to all of the projects, the students are learning with smiles on their faces. Here, Mrs. Treiber teaches a lesson on ratios.

The Dog Days...

Erin Motkin, a teacher at Jackson Elementary School, often has her therapy dog, Moby, visit the students in her classes. Moby still continues to work and visits the students during their virtual lessons.
A Round of Applause...

The following students received Scholastic Art and Writing Awards:
Jennifer Baek, Rebecca Cho, Madison Grady, Dylan Hooshi, Andy Jiang, Al-rabbage Kahn, Ariel Kim, Emily Kim, Alice Ko, Lindsay Landsberg, Claire Lee, Danny Li, Andy Liu, Lauren Marchand, Farrah Park, Sachi Sethi, Krushie Shelat, Katie Tian, Wesley Wang, Kexin Yan, Angela Zhu, and Kevin Zhu.

The following students were recognized by the Adelphi University Quill Awards 2020:
*First Place for Best News Article to Caroline Gross, Tyler Siegmann, Katie Tian and Michelle Wu for "Windsor Wipeout"
*Honorable Mention for Best Opinion Piece to Lindsay Landsberg for "A Push for a cAP"
*First Place for Best Arts Review to Larry Ding for "When They See Us Provides a Renewed View"
*Third Place for Best Online Newspaper
*Second Place to Caroline Gross and Tyler Siegmann for Best Freelance Work

Local Organizations Donate to Those In Need

The Chinese Association of Jericho and the Gratus Company donated gloves, masks, and food for those in need. The gloves and masks helped the Jericho cafeteria workers who are working to make lunches that are delivered to students on the free or reduced lunch program. The food was also delivered to Jericho families.

Jericoh students made signs, cards, and chalk drawings to thank our many first responders and essential workers. Thank you!!
Rainbows Across Nassau!

Rainbows Over Nassau and Suffolk Counties is a social media inspired movement to promote positivity, unity and hope. Children and adults were asked to create rainbows and hang them in your windows. As families, couples or individuals walk through the neighborhood, they will find beautiful rainbows everywhere. Rainbows have become a symbol of hope! This Cantiague student was happy to show off his rainbow!

Artwork Continues to Shine

Jackson second graders created collage designs using different shapes of colored paper, with flexibility in the way they wanted to embellish it. Attention was given to shape, color, line, texture and balance. Some students went further with an enrichment project, a torn paper collage, using an image of their choice. “As you can see, creativity has continued as we stay safe, healthy and connected to each other through art,” said Jackson art teacher Jeff Shanzer.