

CLIFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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NEWS RELEASE

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Clifton Faculty and Staff Sends Messages to Students During School Closures

Clifton Public Schools, along with hundreds of other schools across New Jersey, closed its doors on Friday, March 13, 2020. Amid concerns related to COVID-19, Clifton moved to an at-home distance learning modality for students. Teachers, administrators, and staff prepared lessons and documentation for parents and students to make the shift. At-home distance learning began for students on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Since Tuesday, teachers, counselors, and principals across the district have been staying in contact with students and families via Google Classroom, video conferencing, social media, and good old-fashioned phone calls.

School 13 teacher, Anna Tatarenko, said, "This morning I called each parent on my list and spoke to each of my students. The parents were extremely pleased to hear my voice. I felt a relief of stress from each of them. I told my students how much I miss them, and we will be back in school soon. It was an amazing feeling that I felt."

Dr. Danny Robertozzi, Superintendent of Clifton Public Schools, explained, "Every little thing we do extra for our students during this time will be something that they will always remember. Something as simple as a phone call can brighten a child's day, particularly in these uncertain times. Even if we don't make a phone call, I see some of our teachers utilizing social media to leave video messages for their students. These small gestures bring comfort to our kids, and it means the world to them."

A compilation of encouraging photographs and videos from district employees, including principals, teachers, secretaries, counselors, etc., was posted on social media Thursday night. The goal was encouraging to let their students know that the Clifton Public Schools family will get through this challenging time together.

The video can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/zH7REgzwvak> and on the district's social media pages: Facebook @cliftonpublicschools, Instagram @cliftonschoools, and Twitter @cliftonschoools. #CliftonStrong #CliftonConnects