



# Prospect Heights School District 23

700 N. SCHOENBECK ROAD, PROSPECT HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60070

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**MACARTHUR MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Prospect Heights District 23 recently passed a Resolution to utilize Distance Learning Days in place of Emergency School Closing Days. While we hope we do not have to implement this plan, we want to be proactive and timely in our communication. This unique learning opportunity is new to our District and will be evaluated on an on-going basis. Lessons for the Distance Learning Days will be made available on our website through the Distance Learning Page on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Paper copies will be provided to you upon request. Below is a list of FAQs that will provide details on the program. While distance learning does not replace our teachers or the quality of authentic learning that happens in our classrooms, our goal is to ensure the continuity of education for all of our students.

Here are some highlights of the plan:

- Beginning on Thursday, March 12, students were instructed to and should continue to take home their iPads each night in the 4th through 8th grade. Please note, students are still expected to bring their iPads, fully charged, to school every day.
- If students in Early Childhood through 3rd grade absolutely have no access to a device at home, please contact your child's principal (Dr. Lambatos at Eisenhower or Mr. Curtis at Ross) for ideas and support with staying engaged with learning. Please note that some of our programs such as iReady do not work on phones, only on a laptop, Chromebooks or an iPad with current operating systems.
- Each student (or his/her parent) will log in between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. each day to complete the Google Attendance Form in order to receive attendance credit for the day. ([Eisenhower Attendance](#), [Betsy Ross Attendance](#), [Sullivan Attendance](#), [MacArthur Attendance](#)).
- Teachers will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. to virtually assist your children through email and other technical means.
- If students are unable to log in, alternative assignments will be provided. Please contact your child's teacher via email if this happens. These assignments will need to be turned in upon return to school for credit.

Distance Learning will look different at each grade level. Your child/children's teacher(s) may provide more detailed information in a separate communication. If your child/children receive services from a specialist, that specialist will also reach out to you individually.

At this time, we are closely monitoring student and staff illnesses and taking steps to be prepared. Should there be a Distance Learning day, you will be notified via email, phone, and text. Again, the goal of Distance Learning is to provide students with the continuity of learning. If Distance Learning days are implemented, these days will count as attendance days and will not need to be made up at the end of the school year. Again, students, possibly with your help, will need to fill out the Google Form for attendance each day by 11:00 a.m. If your child cannot participate, we ask you to call your child in sick as you normally would. ([Eisenhower Attendance](#), [Betsy Ross Attendance](#), [Sullivan Attendance](#), [MacArthur Attendance](#)).

Please contact us if you would like this communication translated into your native language.

Por favor, póngase en contacto con nosotros si desea que esta comunicación traducido a su idioma nativo.

Prosimy o kontakt, jeżeli chcą Państwo by wiadomość ta została przetłumaczona na Państwa język ojczysty.



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We have provided Distance Learning day information and Facts and Questions (FAQs):

[Distance Learning Parent FAQ](#) \* This document will be updated frequently.

Lastly, we want to ensure all District 23 families that the health of our students, faculty, and community is extremely important to us. These are uncharted times in which we are, but we want to reassure you that we are in constant communication with our neighboring districts and health officials. Any decision to close school will be made under consultation with and advice from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Please know that the timing of our communication will reflect the prudence to make sure we have the most up-to-date, helpful information.

There are many assumptions out there about the COVID-19 or Coronavirus. The sources school districts are using for the most up to date information and guidance are:

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/>

<https://www.isbe.net/>

It is important for everyone to do their part in staying healthy. The CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty. For additional information about handwashing, see CDC's Handwashing website.

We would like to thank our families for their cooperation and patience. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher, principal or me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy M. Zaher  
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

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