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Mary Robinson Cohen, M.A., J.D.
Superintendent and Principal

March 16, 2020

Dear Parents:

As you know, this recent outbreak of Covid -19/Coronavirus has brought uncertain times to all of us. Thank you for your support and flexibility as our plans to close school evolved over the weekend. After the Governor's address on Friday afternoon, the New Jersey Department of Education gave districts the ability to close schools without having to have a confirmed case of the virus, to begin implementing home instruction plans and have the home instruction days count towards the requirement that students attend school for 180 days per school year.

In order to have our home instruction plan approved, our plan had to pass several NJDOE tests, which it did, and requires teachers to provide, and you to ensure that your children are engaged in, meaningful student learning activities. RPS teachers will be available by email* (*teachers will be checking their RPS emails between 9 am and 1pm daily and will respond asap) if your children need clarifications; however, you need to oversee that your children do the work and sign and return the log sheets to us when school reopens.

Here's how to execute the home instruction plans:

- When you open the package, you will see that today, your child is coming home with 10 days worth of assignments listed on 10 Teacher planning sheets; the assignments may be paper based and/or web based and the package may include additional resources and materials.
- The plans have been individually packaged for each child and not all children in the same class have the same assignments. It is important that you follow the plans for your individual child.
- The Teacher's planning sheet marked Monday/Day 1 is the first day in the cycle and **you should begin tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, with the plans marked Monday/Day 1.** The plans are in order so, the next day will be Day 2, etc.

- If you look at the Teacher's planning sheets, you can see on the left side what the time frames would be if your child were actually in school. We are including the time frames showing the time on task that your children would actually spend if they were here with us in school; they are there for you to use as a reference point.
- The second column contains your child's individual assignments/plans for that day – please note Specials are included and some change daily. Teachers will be monitoring all web-based assignments; all assignments, materials and resources that are not web based will be due when school reopens.
- The third column is for your signature; you are indicating that your child completed the assignments.

Home instruction regulations require 10 hours of instruction over a five day period. This is a minimum standard in the state and, of course, we hope that Roosevelt students will do more.

Roosevelt students are successful, and our district has been recognized for academic excellence, because our staff and parents have high expectations for our students and our children engage in meaningful learning experiences in the classroom and outside of it. As you go through the days out of school with your children, please remember that learning is not just through textbooks or on line; many, many opportunities will present themselves for instruction and enrichment each day.

As a parent of grown children, I am always amazed by what my children remember about the time we spent together during their childhood; I urge you to approach these days not as a burden, but as an adventure. These are certain to be days which we will all remember forever, so make them days filled with joyful learning and bonding experiences with your children!

I do not know for sure when school will reopen; at this juncture we think it will be on March 30. Please stay tuned - once again, I will alert you through my Instagram page@ rpssuperprin, the PTA Facebook page and a RealTime student information alert if that date changes. If it is necessary to extend home instruction plans beyond March 30, teachers will be emailing additional plans to you.

My fervent wish is for your family to remain healthy throughout this time.

Sincerely,

Mary Robinson Cohen, M.A., J.D.