September 2, 2020

Greetings East Orange School District Parents/Guardians and Caretakers,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! The East Orange School District is looking forward to welcoming your child back to school remotely on September 8, 2020. As parents/guardians and caregivers, I commend you for your patience and resilience as we navigate these challenging times as a school district. As penned in my letter to you a few weeks ago, on August 12, 2020 Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 175 (EO 175) permitting school districts to provide remote-only instruction in the fall. Towards that end, the East Orange School District will open the September 2020 school year fully remote as part of Phase I. Students will begin in-person instruction, pending an assessment of the pandemic conditions at that time, during Phase II which will begin on November 16, 2020. It is important to note that this plan may be subject to change due to the changing pandemic landscape.

This year will require a great deal of flexibility and adaptability as we navigate our “new normal” by overcoming odds and achieving success. To that end, your role as parent/guardian/caregiver is critical as it lays the groundwork and foundation for improving outcomes for your child.

Below are four things parents/guardians/caregivers can do to help your child be successful during remote learning:

- **Build a Schedule**
  Having a well-thought-out, specific daily schedule is key, and parents/guardians can be a huge help not only in building such a plan but also in making sure that it is followed. Parent/guardians can start by sitting down with their student and intentionally discussing what he or she is responsible for accomplishing in their course work on a daily or weekly basis, how much time those tasks will realistically take, and what other commitments he or she needs to consider. Bring your child’s teacher(s) into the conversation too as teachers can offer valuable insight into the curriculum, their own expectations, and how time will need to be budgeted. Once you've talked through everything on your child’s plate, help him or her write out a weekly schedule with designated work time for online courses. Be sure to hang up the schedule in a noticeable place to help keep your child accountable and establish an effective routine.

"Developing Leaders One Student at a Time"
Set Up a Designated Workspace
The right workspace makes a huge difference in students’ mindset and ability to focus. When participating in e-learning, students have the ability to complete their work where they want, so it’s important to put thought into what kind of environment is truly most effective for them and make sure that they have a designated space at home.

Get to Know the Online Learning Platform
E-learning means that students spend their school days immersed in an online program (or maybe several). For parents, taking the time to get familiar with what those platforms look like, how your child is using them, and what resources are available are some of the best ways you can offer support.

Stay in Communication with Your Child’s Teachers and School Counselors
Just because students are learning online doesn’t mean they are learning independently. Teachers still play an absolutely critical role in e-learning and maintaining open, frequent communication is key to student success. Parents and other caregivers need to take part in this ongoing dialogue to make sure students stay on-pace and get the appropriate help when its needed.

In closing, I want to emphasize that together we can go far. I am looking forward to a year filled with stories of success even in the midst of challenging times. Should you have further questions or concerns (regarding your child’s schedule, E-Learning guide, school communications, etc.) please contact your child’s school directly.

Thank you again for your patience and cooperation and I look forward to working with you this school year.

Educationally Yours,

AbdulSaleem R. Hasan, Ed.S.
Superintendent of Schools

“Developing Leaders One Student at a Time”