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Jonathan Hart, Ph.D., *Superintendent*  
Jason M. Bohm, CPA, *Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

[jhart@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:jhart@readington.k12.nj.us)  
[jbohm@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:jbohm@readington.k12.nj.us)

P.O. Box 807 • 52 Readington Road • Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889 • (908)-534-2195 • (908) 349-3042 fax

May 4, 2020

Dear Readington Families,

Today, Governor Murphy announced that schools would remain closed and engaged in remote learning for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year to protect our children's safety and well-being. This announcement brings with it many questions, concerns, and some disappointment for many. I, too, am saddened that we will not see our Readington students in person for the duration of the school year. While this news elicits those feelings, it is productive to have an answer to the most pressing question of the last several weeks. The district can continue making plans, now knowing that schools will not resume in-person instruction for the remainder of the year.

Governor Murphy's briefing also announced, following the guidance of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), that spring sports will not resume. Governor Murphy's direction means that our spring sports competitions and in-person practices will not occur. However, our district has a plan to allow our students participate in virtual extracurricular activities. Announcements will be coming from school buildings this week. This, of course, does not replace in-person meetings but will allow students the option of participating in an online extracurricular activity with peers.

Finally, our district's plans for the duration of the spring will include ways in which we address 8th grade graduation, end-of-year celebrations, and recognition of staff and student accomplishments. The district is also making plans for a potential "close out" day for students and staff where we will manage the collection of student Chromebooks, books, and other district-issued materials. This will also allow students and staff the opportunity to collect items previously left in our schools. All of this will be planned pending any health-related guidance from the Governor or the Department of Education to ensure the safety of all involved.

Today's announcement from the Governor falls at the beginning of both Teacher Appreciation Week and National Nurses Week. This week, we should all take a moment to appreciate the teachers and nurses who are playing a heroic role in our community. While the school closure has produced significant challenges, our school staff continues to provide a quality remote education. We appreciate their efforts!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools