March 14, 2020

Dear OCVTS Students and Families,

Ocean County Vocational Technical School buildings will be closed to all students beginning Monday, March 16th until further notice. Our decision to close schools was made in consultation with the Ocean County Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education. This closure is to promote social distancing thereby limiting the spread of the coronavirus within our communities. All of us must be diligent in the fight of the spread of this virus in our neighborhoods and general public. The decision to close was made for the safety of our students, staff and communities in Ocean County.

Beginning Monday, our district will transfer to on-line home instruction. Our teachers have worked diligently to prepare remote learning plans for their students. These lessons were carefully planned to reinforce skills and provide meaningful content for continuous learning. The majority of our students will complete these lessons through on-line platforms that have previously been used in the classrooms. For students without access to the internet and/or devices, packets have been prepared and sent home with your child. If your child's instructor did not provide a packet, they will be mailed home.

- All work completed will count as grades for your child.
- Attendance during remote days will be based on the submission, completion, and communication made daily.
- All assignments will count as a grade.
- Students should submit assignments daily to teachers via email, google classroom, Edmodo, or whichever procedure the instructor has established.
- Packets must be returned the first day back to school for academic credit and attendance.

The Department of Education supports these distance learning days and will count them towards the 180-day requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. This flexibility to count a day on which public school facilities are closed toward the board of education’s statutory 180-day requirement applies strictly to public health-related school closures.
If you need to contact our teaching staff, they will continue to be available every weekday during the normal school hours. Our Central Administration, Building Administration, Nursing and Secretarial Support Staff will be available and can be contacted by phone or email between the hours of 7:30 PM-2:00 PM. If a child or staff member becomes ill, please contact our School Nurse by phone or email.

Our food program for eligible students is in place and all parents/families have been informed of the plan for daily delivery. Any family in need, please call Debra Wilkoski 732-240-6414 ext. 3318.

Please know that the Ocean County Vocational Technical School District prioritizes the health and safety of the entire community. These are trying times for our community, state and country. I want to thank our families for your patience as we continue to monitor this evolving situation regarding the COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Karen Homiek
OCVTS Superintendent