



Teaching capable, confident kids  
for a healthy planet

May 5, 2020

RE: Virtual Learning Update

Dear Families,

First, we'd like to take a few minutes to recognize our incredible group of dedicated teachers during this Teacher Appreciation Week. Throughout this process, they have taken the time to create thoughtful, caring, student focused learning experiences. In a matter of weeks, they have created virtual calming places for students, hangouts that allow for learning and socialization, and small student work groups that meet on Zoom. They continue to foster transformative virtual learning environments that have allowed our students to thrive.

Yesterday, governor Phil Murphy announced that "All schools will remain closed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the school year – to protect the health of our children, our educators, and their families." We realize this is not what we planned for, but we are all going to learn from this experience. To continue growing, we will keep focusing our staff professional development on a few integrated competency areas:

- The ways in which technology can be used to revolutionize learning
- Alternative ways technology can be used to support distance learning
- Technology as it supports knowledge acquisition and development.

We want to assure you that Unity will continue to work as a model of innovative public-school teaching, one that can be scaled, isn't dependent on inherent knowledge, and directly impacts student achievement in all aspects. Although we will continue to operate in a virtual world, we will continue to go beyond basic student learning. At Unity, our definition of student achievement has always gone beyond traditional measures. We educate the whole child to create confident, capable, lifelong "Unity Learners" who make a positive impact on themselves, others and the world around them. That will not change.

We invite you to continue engaging in open conversations with us and reaching out to let us know how we can best support you and your family. We are attaching our most recent Unity calendar for your convenience

Sincerely,

*Connie Sanchez*

Connie Sanchez  
Executive Director

*Michael Braverman*

Michael Braverman  
Dean of Students