

Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:

The Center School will be open Monday, March 16, during which students will receive final training and instructions from their teachers for remote learning. There will not be any after school activities Monday.

The Center School will transition to remote learning starting Tuesday, March 17. School will be closed to all students. All school related activities, clubs, and events are cancelled at this time, until further notice.

School administration will be working, as well as monitoring updates. Along with everyone else, we hope that this closure process will remain as short as possible and we can all get back to normalcy as soon as possible.

Each Friday I will continue notifying you of updates and progress, student engagement, and other information related to The Center School.

Although we are all anxious of the unknown, we need to remember that there have been many events in our history that have been challenging and scary, yet not insurmountable. We must rely on common sense, experience, knowledge, and planning to meet the challenge, face the fears, and complete the tasks we are handed.

Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke the truest words in his March 1933 inaugural speech before the citizens of the United States-

“that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.”



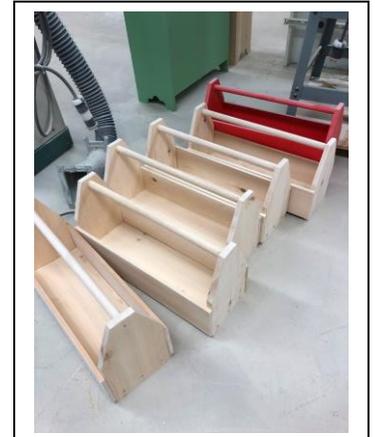
Please check school website starting Monday for important messages.

FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

All school levels were continuing instruction this week, along with gearing up for “distance learning.” High School students received new laptops, Microsoft Surface Go’s, and the Elementary school were all put on a single platform, Chromebooks. Throughout the school technology was the word this week and, as could have been expected, students were comfortable and excited with additional methods and applications for learning.

Woodshop

The students are making progress on their projects. Elementary students are working on a wall shelf or toolbox project. The toolbox project is nearing completion, and students will be applying stain or paint to the project soon. The wall shelf project is still being assembled. Middle and High School students are working on individual projects. There is always construction going on in the woodshop.



Music

Elementary School students had fun playing boomwackers. In addition to just having fun students are also learning rhythm and melody, two of the Elements of Music.



Other Elementary students were instructed on Recorders.

To recognize March as Women’s Month, Middle school students watched short biographies on four Famous Women in Music: Amy Beach, Fanny Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann, and Hildegard of Bingham. We also listened to selections of music from each composer.



Career Exploration

Students concluded researching the definition, special skills, duties, education, and special tests/requirements of their safety career using the bls.gov website and began to learn about job want ads in preparation of making their own want ad for a previously researched career.

Life Skills 1 and 2

Life Skills 1 students continued their unit on money. Students engaged in various money games where they were tasked with recalling the names of the common coins and calculating the various amounts with different coin combinations. Life Skills 2 students continued their unit about housekeeping and independent skills to maintain a clean living space. The students identified common household cleaning products (glass cleaner, all purpose cleaner, toilet bowl brush, trash can liner, air freshener, bathroom cleaner) and used critical thinking to problem solve which item to use on various surfaces or various purposes. They also used their laptops to research the cost of these items from 3 different stores, before writing their own short story using the products in contextually correct sentences.

Financial Literacy

Mrs. Ferraro's students continued their focus on taxes, including reading and interpreting paystubs and tax deductions and how to calculate your paycheck.

Financial Planning

Financial Planning students explored the factors that influence the cost of their auto insurance payment, various coverage options of car insurance, and determining the appropriate type of auto insurance for different real-life scenarios.

Therapeutic Dept.

This week the high school counselors continued to discuss the coronavirus with concerned students who have been concerned about the recent school closures in their areas and wondering how it will impact the Center School. On a lighter note the high school had an informative meeting regarding its new transition program that will debut during the 4th marking period. The Center School has partnered with Alternatives Inc., a company that will bring a variety of services such as job readiness training, structured learning experience, vocational assessment, and job coaching, to our 12th grade students, looking to acquire hard and soft skills in today's job market.

Mrs. Gorski and Mr. Coronado's Middle School Groups completed an activity sheet "In A Perfect World" by completing sentence starters. Students also drew their idea of what a perfect world would look like. Students recognized that things in life are not always ideal. They used the worksheet to think about what life would be like in a perfect situation. Thinking about what would make things ideal can help you process what you are not happy about and make appropriate changes for those things that you can have control of. Students were able to acknowledge the things that are good in their lives and feel gratitude for them.

Transition Program

The transition students come to work at Thrifts and Gifts several times a week. Not only do they complete their specific duties for their shift, they are eager to learn new skills and put their creative talents to work as seen in these pictures. The students test products that are donated to the store to make sure they are working properly, as well as remodel the store window as items sell or season changes. Great job to all of the transition students and keep up the hard work!



School News

Spanish Club

(Tuesday, April 21: Middle/High Schools After School Spanish Culture Club)

The MS/HS Spanish Culture Club will be exploring Mexico's historical and cultural celebration of Cinco de Mayo (the anniversary of the Battle of Puebla that took place on May 5, 1862 between the Mexicans and the French, which commemorates Mexico's victory that day). We will be making and eating quesadillas and sombrero (Mexican hat) cookies...and tortilla chips and salsa, of course. Permission forms will follow.

(Tuesday, May 5: Middle/High Schools After School Spanish Culture Club Trip)

The MS/HS Spanish Culture Club will be going on its next salida (trip) to the Mexican restaurant, Mis Amigos Mexican Grill, in Dunellen, NJ. Permission forms will follow. This will be our last salida (trip) of the school year.

Bistro Message

For any parents or guardians who have a change of familial status or who have not applied for free or reduced lunch in the past and who desire to do so, this is how.

Go to The Center School website and find the application and income eligibility guidelines there. Print it out and send it to the school, OR contact Lisa Swan at 908-253-3870, Xt. 100 and one will be given to your student to bring home to you.

Career Day

It's time for Career Day again at The Center School. If you or someone you know has an interesting job and is willing to share with our 8th graders and HS students during the afternoon of April 17th, please contact Ruth Slovik at 908-253-3870, Xt. 109. Last year we had 17 professional people share about their jobs. By sharing your passion, experience and training, our students get a first-hand view of "what's out there."

IMPORTANT DATES:

Mon. March 16	School is open, no after school activities
Tue. March 17-Fri. April 3	School building is closed, students stay home "Home instruction" Remote learning classes each day
Fri. April 3	3 rd Marking Period Ends
Mon. April 6- Mon. Apr. 13	School Closed- Spring Break
Tue. April 14	School Back in Session ---until further notice
Fri. April 17	Career Day

Sincerely,



Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi
Principal