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Dear Cherry Hill Educational Community,

I hope that this finds you all well, as we quickly come to the end of February 2020. At the Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 3 Strategic Planning Goals were adopted for our district which will guide our vision and direction for the next 5 years. One of those goals is focused on Student Wellness, “Create frameworks of learning and supports for all students to develop the skills needed for social and emotional wellness.” There are two very critical items regarding Student Wellness that I encourage all of you to discuss with your children, regardless of their age:

1. DO NOT replicate what they see on social media/Tik Tok/the internet
2. ALWAYS use proper hygiene including hand washing

The vast majority of children in our district have access to, or carry some sort of electronic device with them every day – smart phones, tablets, digital media players, etc. While these devices can be very useful and necessary in life and in school, they can also expose our children to images, ideas, challenges, and influences that the adults in their lives would never condone or endorse. Recently, a few CHPS students attempted to replicate “pranks” or “challenges” they saw on Tik Tok, and other platforms, resulting in classmates being injured – physically and emotionally. Often, children act impulsively and without considering the consequence of their actions. If your child has an electronic device, ask them to share what apps they are viewing and using. Help them to understand the extreme unintended outcomes that may occur because of a fleeting moment of making a bad choice.

The news has inundated us with stories about the Coronavirus, now being referred to as 2019-nCoV. The Cherry Hill School District is working closely with state and county health officials to monitor updates regarding this illness and the potential impact it may have on our community. We will keep you updated with information as it becomes available to us. Maintaining healthy learning environments is a key focus for all of us. As of now, no cases of Coronavirus have been identified in our community. Because basic hygiene practices are key to preventing the spread of illness, and I am asking your cooperation with the following:

- **Remind your children to wash their hands** frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, multiple times throughout the day.
- **Remind your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food, or unwashed utensils.
- **Remind your children to cover their coughs and sneezes** with tissues. If tissues are unavailable, use the elbow, arm or sleeve.
- **Do not send your children to school if they are sick.** Our nurses will be closely monitoring student health and sick children will be sent home.
- **Keep sick children home for at least 24 hours** after the cessation of symptoms or the absence of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Thank you for spending time discussing these items with your children. We can work together to support our children and our community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Dr. Joseph Meloche
Superintendent of Schools