

GLEN ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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May 27, 2020

Please enjoy this long weekend as school is closed Friday, May 29. In addition, we are pleased that Governor Murphy has relaxed restrictions regarding permitting a traditional graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 which is scheduled for July 30th. Please find below communications from Mr. Arlotta regarding Graduation and Cap & Gown Distribution. Additional correspondence will be forthcoming from all district principals regarding end of year events, returning computers, books, picking up student belongings, etc.

- **Spotlight on GR High School: Graduation for Class of 2020 Update:** Read the letters Mr. Arlotta sent this week about [Graduation](#) and [Cap & Gown Distribution](#).

Celebrate your 2020 Grad: Please send photos of your 2020 GR High School graduate with their name and a short blurb. Send to press@glenrocknj.org. We will post to district social media.

Showcase Week at GR High School celebrating students: We hope you were able to enjoy one, a few or all of these videos and performances. Tuesday was Tabata Tuesday Live Workout and Theatre Company Spring Scenes, Wednesday was Easy as Crepes: A How to Cooking Segment and Coffeehouse 48, and Thursday is Great Girl Up Gameshow, Moth Story Slam and Athletic Awards Ceremony.

Plus there is a [new episode](#) of **Under the Rock**.

- **Byrd Motto:** Last year, Byrd had a school wide motto contest. All students were encouraged to submit an idea for a motto and Alina Sawhney was the winner. The motto is: Be brave, be bold, be beautiful, be Byrd! They say the motto each day after the morning announcements.

- **Community Outreach:** Please join our GR High School students who continue to work hard to put an end to cancer as we virtually hold our annual Relay for Life event on Saturday, May 30th. [More info](#). Also, The Red Cross has sent an alert about blood and platelet shortage. Please [donate](#) if you can.

- **Mental Health Resources:** [Hotlines and helplines](#), Resources provided by the [Bergen County Division of Mental Health](#), and COVID-19 [Mental Health Resources](#) for families from NYU Langone Health.

- **Technology issues or questions,** please contact helpdesk@glenrocknj.org.

- **Colonial Day at Coleman:** On May 21st, Coleman 5th graders participated in the first virtual Colonial Day! Coleman parents prepared a Colonial Day bag filled with materials to create colonial games, art

projects, and a colonial themed lunch for students to enjoy. Teachers hosted a Zoom session to read students a Colonial America story.



● **Introducing the New GR Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Operations for the 2020-2021 school year:** Prior to coming to Glen Rock Public Schools, Mr. Gregory Van Nest taught high school English for ten years before taking a Supervisor of Language Arts position at Sparta Middle School. He then worked as the Supervisor of English for Leonia Schools, working with grades 6-12 before he moved to the Director of Curriculum and Instruction role in Leonia. In this position, he provided professional learning opportunities for all teachers, Pre-K through high school, coordinated curriculum for the district, and managed staff evaluations for the district.

Read the full press release below.

● **Summer Camp Update:** All Community School outdoor camps have been canceled. Various camps have become virtual. [See the full list of camps offered this summer.](#) [Register](#) or [email](#) with questions.

● **Congratulations** to the Glen Rock Community School Preschool Pre-K Class of 2020.

● **Looking ahead to the long weekend or summer:** Here are [simple family ideas](#) to do for fun, [Virtual museum tours](#) & [Virtual field trips](#) including: The White House, Empire State Building & The Liberty Bell.

Please support our local businesses as they start to open. **As a reminder, school property is closed at all times. There is to be no use of the fields, playgrounds, parking lots, etc.** We are Glen Rock Schools!

Sincerely,

Allison De Meulder

Allison De Meulder
Director of Communications

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For Immediate Release: May 27, 2020

GLEN ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS NAMES ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF INNOVATION AND OPERATIONS FOR 2020-2021

Gregory Van Nest was approved by the Glen Rock Board of Education as the Glen Rock Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Operations for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Van Nest will not be replacing anyone in this position. The position, approved for the academic year 2019-2020, was not filled until the hiring of Mr. Van Nest who will start work in the district on August 1, 2020.

Prior to coming to Glen Rock Public Schools, Mr. Van Nest taught high school English for ten years before taking a Supervisor of Language Arts position at Sparta Middle School. He then worked as the Supervisor of English for Leonia Schools, working with grades 6-12 before he moved to the Director of Curriculum and Instruction role in Leonia. In this position, he provided professional learning opportunities for all teachers, Pre-K through high school, coordinated curriculum for the district, and managed staff evaluations for the district.

Mr. Van Nest is enthusiastic about his new position at Glen Rock Schools and states, "I'm excited to be in a high-performing district that emphasizes innovation and leadership. In addition I am looking forward to working with teachers and supporting high levels of learning for the students of Glen Rock." In his new role, he will provide strategic planning and implementation of innovation and operations to meet the needs of students and the district as a whole. In addition, he will help set the vision and strategies for the district. Also included in Mr. Van Nest's responsibilities are supervising the following district positions: Director of Curriculum, Director of Special Services, Director of Pupil Personnel Services and subject supervisors. The Assistant Superintendent will also manage instructional programs and professional development for the district. Mr. Van Nest will begin his new role on August 1, 2020.