



Sauquoit Valley Central School District

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March 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The situation revolving around the Coronavirus continues to manifest itself since our initial communication over a week ago. In fact, the drafting of this letter has changed immensely since its inception earlier this morning. As you follow the news media's coverage of Coronavirus, you are certainly seeing how quickly things are unfolding and how dynamic of a situation this is.

By declaration of County Executive, Anthony Picente, and in collaboration with school Superintendent's, school will be closed starting Monday, March 16 through Monday, April 13 due to the increasing concern related to Coronavirus. School is expected to resume on April 14.

I have referenced the declaration of a state of emergency and that all Oneida County schools are closed; as well, a press release from the OHM BOCES on the District's website.

What we know at this time, subject to change suddenly, from our County Executive:

- Currently, there are no confirmed cases COVID-19 in Oneida County. There are people under quarantine and being monitored; however, no confirmed case of COVID-19. By the time you have read this, the situation may have already changed.
- Herkimer County does have one confirmed case
- If you are sick, call your doctor before going to any health care facility and take your direction from your doctor regarding next steps.
- What is being communicated now can certainly change in a matter of hours or less.
- If suspected of the virus, you will be tested and quarantined until results are provided. If negative and asymptomatic you may be released from quarantine. If positive, you undergo quarantine for 14 days in home.
- The fact that a person may be under quarantine, does not necessarily mean they have tested positive for COVID-19. Unless we hear from the County Executive's office of a confirmed case, then it is not a confirmed case of COVID-19. It is important to minimize the spread of unconfirmed information.

How does the school's closure impact other events at school? All activities, school related or outside groups are suspended from using our facilities, throughout this long-term closure. This includes spring sports.

Since we are closed for an extended period of time our teaching staff has prepared work for the students to complete at home to minimize academic regression. This work will be collected from teachers on Monday and prepared to distribute to parents. We will inform of a schedule for when this work will be distributed. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's

teacher(s) with any questions you may have with the work provided. Encourage your children to stay academically engaged by completing the work provided by the teachers and through other independent means you deem useful. I know you are hearing of colleges and universities moving to online instruction and some school district may as well; however, we are not fully equipped nor prepared for a total transition to online instruction at this time. Furthermore, we cannot be certain that all of our students have the same capability to receive online instruction and keep pace with those who do have such access to the online environment.

As you have witnessed this week, our life with Coronavirus is changing daily and we need to be prepared for the unknown. We are faced with an unusual circumstance and I am grateful for your patience and understanding as we navigate this situation together. Please check the school website for any new information regarding the Coronavirus and any relevant impact on school operations in the future. This will be our communication tool with you throughout this evolving situation. In closing, I thank you for your anticipated support of the District in our efforts to slow the spread of the virus and provide alternative instruction for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald Wheelock', written in a cursive style.

Ronald Wheelock
Superintendent of Schools