

Oneonta City School District

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Tom Brindley
Superintendent

March 27th, 2020

Dear Oneonta City School District Students, Parents, Faculty, Staff, and Community,

I am hoping that this letter finds you all well. As we close out week two of this closure, there has been some news out of Albany and some updates on important school business related to the COVID-19 closure, but also the regular District business we continue to undertake. Included in this March 27th update is: information on grades for the third quarter, a reminder relative to the change in the meal distribution schedule, where we are in terms of the school closure, childcare, Spring Break, and the status of senior class events. First, I want to thank you all for your continued understanding and patience during this unprecedented time. Our community has come together in such a wonderful way to ensure that our students continue to have an opportunity to keep their minds nourished as well as their bodies.

- As per Governor Cuomo's announcement today, the Oneonta City School District is closed through April 14th and will return to school on Wednesday, April 15th. This is a change as we were previously returning on April 14th.
- Spring Break Vacation: Monday, April 6th through Monday, April 13th – We will be honoring this regularly scheduled break and therefore no home instruction will be taking place. At this point, our teachers will re-engage with students on April 14th, with our physical return to school occurring on Wednesday, April 15th.
- Our Teachers and Information Technology Department are doing some excellent work to connect with students. Our most recent survey, designed to assess the connectivity options for our students, is proving to be most helpful as we work collaboratively to put together a Continuity of Learning Plan for the extended school closure.
 - It is our hope that the primarily supplemental material provided for our students will limit any academic regression during the initial closing.
 - We are continuing to work on the introduction of new work as we consider the possibility of a longer-term closure.
 - If your child is having difficulty with any of the work, please reach out to her/his teacher via school email as she or he will be best equipped to help your student through the work.
 - Essentially we are hoping that our students simply do the best that they can working within our current state of home instruction as we continue to do our best to provide them some degree of educational normalcy while keeping them critically thinking and practicing skills during our mandated closure.
- Third Quarter Grades:
 - With the abrupt shift to home instruction, we have spent some time giving thought to how student work will be assessed for the third quarter. Considering the current circumstance, it has been determined that we will end grading for the third quarter on the last day of on-campus instruction, March 12th. The work students have

completed from home thus far is primarily supplemental to the work they have done in school and will not count negatively against them as it is our collective hope to advantage students as best we can during these extremely unusual educational circumstances. We recognize that there are connectivity concerns that we continue to assess and try to work through in order to reach all students. As it is unclear at this time what the actual length of closure will be, we have yet to determine exactly how the fourth quarter will be impacted but are establishing several scenarios for consideration should we need to draw upon one as the result of a long-term mandated closure. I will communicate fourth quarter updates once we receive guidance from the State.

- Child Care:
 - Pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.4, all school districts in New York State have been directed by the Governor to establish plans for the care of children of essential health care workers, first responders, and other critical professions and occupations.
 - As you are aware, COVID-19 is a virus easily spread by being in close proximity with others. To follow New York State's recommendation that all citizens practice social distancing when possible, this childcare option is meant to be for district parents/guardians working in the critical fields indicated by the State who have no other options available to them, such as police, fire, EMS, physicians, nurses, etc. This is not an exhaustive list and as such, please visit: oneontacsd.org and click on the Yellow Banner and review the posted Childcare Information.
- Senior Class Events:
 - As of this moment, we are planning to enjoy our Senior Trip, Senior Prom, and Graduation. Of course, should the closure extend through the remainder of school year, these events will be cancelled. However at the moment, we are hoping to celebrate these events together this school year.
- Meals:
 - Beginning on Monday, March 30th:
 - Meals will be provided at the following locations from 11:00 AM. – 12:30 PM.: Greater Plains Elementary and Valleyview Elementary schools on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
 - Meals will be distributed from our buses from 11:00 AM. – 12:30 PM., at the following locations – Lantern Hill Mobile Home Park, Mountainview Mobile Home Park, 124 Oneida Street neighborhood, Fairview Street Apartment area, and the Silliman Cove neighborhood on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
 - PLEASE visit any one of these locations for meals. The meals delivered on these days will consist of the following:
 - On Monday: Monday lunch, Tuesday breakfast and lunch, and Wednesday breakfast will be distributed.
 - On Wednesday: Wednesday lunch, Thursday breakfast and lunch, and Friday breakfast will be distributed.
 - On Friday: Friday lunch and Monday breakfast will be distributed.
 - PLEASE also know that this meal schedule will continue through the April 6th – April 13th break.

More updates to follow as information becomes available. For now, thank you for your understanding and as always, please call me if I can help in some way: Office - 607-433-8200 x1301; Cell - 607-267-6441, or email: tbrindley@oneontacsd.org.

Wishing you all well.

Sincerely...Tom Brindley