



April 20, 2020

Dear Oneonta City School District Parents and Guardians:

We hope that this letter finds you and your family healthy and safe. On Thursday, April 16th, Governor Cuomo announced that schools will remain closed through May 15th. With Monday, April 20th marking the beginning of our 4th Quarter, our Administrative Team wanted to share some important information regarding grading practices that reflect participation and learning. We strongly believe that students' academic records should not be negatively impacted because of this most unfortunate situation that we find ourselves in. In recognition of the challenges and stress associated with learning and instruction during this period of school closure, it is our hope that the information presented below represents equitable grading practices for our students.

Please note that our budget vote and Board of Education election have been postponed and will be rescheduled at a date to be determined. We will continue to connect and reachout to our families. It is important to keep supporting each other. ***We are a STRONG YELLOWJACKET COMMUNITY!***

ANNOUNCEMENTS and GUIDANCE for STUDENTS and THEIR FAMILIES

A NOTE ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

During the closure, we are not in a position to send Chromebooks out for repair. Once schools and businesses reopen, we will resume the Chromebook repair process.

Should your student's Chromebook completely fail during the closure, we ask that they use another device in your household. If that is simply not possible, please contact your building principal to request paper packets.

A new Chromebook "Night" policy has been implemented that prevents student Chromebooks in grades K-8 from being used between 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM when we hope they are getting a good night's sleep. If a device gets stuck in Night mode, you can find the steps to resolve the problem on the [Parent Resource page](#).

END OF QUARTER 3

Friday, April 17, 2020

- Report Cards:
 - Grades K-5 report cards will be mailed home.
 - Grade 6-12 report cards will be posted in eschool on 4/24/20 and mailed home to families that have requested.

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN-QUARTER 4

This document covers the following topics:

- Quarter 4 New Instruction
- Quarter 4 Grades
- Promotion and Final Averages
- Exemptions for Regents Exams
- REMINDERS

As we move into the 4th Quarter, schools are transitioning to new learning, and Oneonta City Schools will be no different. This document will provide important information concerning our collective effort to provide continued instruction to our students. As mentioned previously, we continue to recognize that this is a very difficult time filled with many uncertainties. We hope that this document will provide clear expectations to reduce the amount of stress you and our students may be experiencing.

QUARTER 4 NEW INSTRUCTION

New instruction will occur for the 4th Quarter starting on 4/20/2020. We know that families and students have been doing their best to engage in the work that has already been made available, and as we move into this new learning, we ask that you ***continue to do the best you can to participate***. We know this is easier for some than others, and all we ask is that you give it your best effort and try to stay in communication. Effort and student participation are so very important during this time of school closure. Staff will be monitoring both as we transition into and move through the 4th Quarter.

GRADES K-5

What you can expect from teachers:

Content Delivery

- All K-5 teachers may post content daily or as frequently as possible or consistent with their traditional schedule to either Schoology or Google Classroom ideally no later than 8:30 a.m.
- All K-5 teachers should be available between 8:25 a.m.- 3:05 p.m. every school day Monday through Friday to address student questions, concerns and offer support

GRADES 6-12

What you can expect from teachers:

Content Delivery

- All 6-12 teachers may post content daily or as frequently as possible or consistent with their traditional schedule to either Schoology or Google Classroom ideally no later than 7:45 a.m.
- All 6-12 teachers should be available between 7:30 a.m.- 2:20 p.m. every school day Monday through Friday to address student questions, concerns and offer support.



OFFICE HOURS

- Many of our teachers will be reaching out to students regarding scheduled “Office Hours” - these are times in which students can get help during that specific time. However, teachers will still be available for assistance throughout the scheduled school day.

Special Education Teachers K-12

- Special education teachers will continue to:
 - Support students on their assigned caseload.
 - Collaborate with their colleagues to increase opportunities for success.

Specialists (OT, PT, Speech..)

- Specialists and interventionists will structure communication plans to work with students and families. Weekly contact will be attempted and documented for all students and three (3) unsuccessful attempts to reach a student and/or family will be reported to the building Principal or designee. Progress reports will be completed at the same time as report cards.

Teaching Assistants

- Serve as a resource for students and teachers.
- Provide feedback and support concerning instruction.
- When appropriate, attend and participate in the eLearning environment.
- Conduct check-ins with assigned students and act as a resource to share needs.

QUARTER 4 GRADES

Grades K-5 .

Progress of student participation and effort during the 4th quarter will be reported through a narrative on report cards by your child’s classroom teacher.

Grades 6-12

Numerical grades will not be awarded on the 4th quarter report card. Students will earn a P (pass) or an F (fail) which will be based on their effort and participation as well as performance on assessments and assignments. Pass/fail determination will be based on a configuration wherein student engagement: effort and participation will count more heavily and student performance: assessments and assignments will count less heavily to more accurately reflect the challenging nature and inherent limitation of this new home-based, distance learning instructional environment.



PROMOTION & FINAL AVERAGES FOR THE YEAR

Grades K-5

Teachers will determine whether a student is promoted to or placed in the next grade level based on their progress through our initial date of closure (3/12/2020). If a student is to be retained, the teacher must discuss this with the Building Principal and parents prior to 6/10/20.

Grades 6-12

Student Transcripts: We will modify student transcripts to provide adequate context about the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the resulting change in grading for the period after March 12, 2020.

GPA: Student's final GPA will include grades earned through March 12, 2020.

***While Quarter 4 will have no impact on a student's overall GPA, it may be taken into consideration when determining whether or not a student passes or fails a course. ***

EXEMPTION FOR REGENTS EXAMS

Students in grades 8-12 will be exempted from specific Regents examination requirements for graduation under these circumstances:

- 1) If a student was enrolled in a course leading to a Regents exam and was passing for the year at the end of the 3rd Quarter, they will be exempted from that Regents exam.
- 2) If a student was enrolled in a course leading to a Regents exam and was failing for the year at the end of the 3rd Quarter AND has a P grade for the 4th Quarter, they will be exempted from that Regents exam.
- 3) If a student was preparing to retake a Regents exam that they had previously failed in June, 2019; August, 2019; or January, 2020 they will be exempted from that Regents exam.

REMINDERS

TECHNOLOGY ISSUES/CONCERNS

Students should report any other issues or concerns involving technology to their child's Library Media Specialist via their District email:

- Mrs. Stalder - High School mstalder@oneontacsd.org
- Mrs. Forbes - Middle School sforbes@oneontacsd.org
- Mrs. Ewing - Greater Plains jewing@oneontacsd.org
- Mrs. Hamilton - Riverside dhamilton@oneontacd.org
- Mr. Parmerter - Valleyview mparmerter@oneontacsd.org



SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE RESOURCES can be found here and are updated regularly:

<https://www.oneontacsd.org/CoronavirusInformation.aspx>

Elementary and Middle School Food Backpack Programs will continue. If you are a family that is in need of food but are not currently enrolled in the program please contact your school's guidance counselor or principal.

- Breakfast and lunch program will continue to be offered.

Social and Emotional Needs

Counseling staff will be available by phone and email during regular school hours for the extent of the school closing. Counselors will be checking their messages on a daily basis.

If you have an emergency or are in crisis, please call 911.

Oneonta High School (607) 433-8243

School Counselors

Mrs. Garcia	ext. 2121	sgarcia@oneontacsd.org
Mrs. Kaschak	ext. 2122	kkaschak@oneontacsd.org
Mrs. Segal	ext. 2123	nichola@oneontacsd.org

School Psychologist

Mrs. Szerszen	ext. 2234	kszerszen@oneontacsd.org
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School Social Worker

Mrs. Foster	ext. 2127	ffoster@oneontacsd.org
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Oneonta Middle School (607) 433-8262

School Counselors

Mr. Mason	ext. 3435	rmason@oneontacsd.org
Mr. Scanlon	ext. 3454	tscanlon@oneontacsd.org

School Psychologists

Mrs. Rutherford	ext. 3430	drutherford@oneontacsd.org
Mrs. Zimmerman	ext. 3430	lzimmerman@oneontacsd.org

Greater Plains Elementary (607) 433-8272

School Counselor

Mrs. Herger	ext. 4403	sherger@oneontacsd.org
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School Psychologist

Mrs. Rutherford	ext. 4406	drutherford@oneontacsd.org
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Valleyview Elementary (607) 433-8252

School Counselor

Mrs. Hoffman ext. 6403 khoffman@oneontacsd.org

School Psychologist

Mrs. Zimmerman ext. 6406 lzimmerman@oneontacsd.org

Riverside Elementary (607) 433-8273

School Counselor

Ms. Hoose ext. 5403 mhoose@oneontacsd.org

School Psychologist

Mrs. Beckerink ext. 5406 sbeckerink@oneontacsd.org

We hope this document will be helpful to you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us.

***In Yellowjacket Unity,
OCSD Administrative Team***

Thomas Brindley	Superintendent of Schools	tbrindley@oneontacsd.org	433-8200 ext. 1301 267-6441 cell
Coleen Moore	Director of Curriculum & Instruction	cmoore@oneontacsd.org	433-8200 ext. 1331 435-0006 cell
Timothy Gracy	Director of Special Education	tgracy@oneontacsd.org	433-8225 ext. 1320
Bonnie Nobiling	Director of IT Services	bnobiling@oneontacsd.org	433-8243 ext. 2299
Lisa Weeks	Business Manager	lweeks@oneontacsd.org	433-8200 ext. 1303
Anne Wolstenholme	High School Principal	awolstenholme@oneontacsd.org	433-8243 ext. 2115
Joseph Ballard	High School Assistant Principal	jballard@oneontacsd.org	433-8243 ext 2132
Thomas Molle	Middle School Principal	tmolle@oneontacsd.org	433-8262 ext 3450
Nancy Osborn	Greater Plains Principal	nosborn@oneontacsd.org	433-8274 ext. 4400
Melinda Murdock	Riverside Principal	mmurdock@oneontacsd.org	433-8273 ext 5401
Walt Baskin	Valleyview Principal	wbaskin@oneontacsd.org	433-8252 ext 6400
Jerry Mackey	Athletic Director	jmackey@oneontacsd.org	433-8251