



PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Hornet Students, Parents, Faculty and Staff:

I recognize the speed at which news travels in this environment of social media, and I therefore acknowledge that many of you are surely already aware of today's announcement. Nonetheless, **earlier today, Governor Cuomo declared that New York State schools would remain closed through the end of the 2019-20 school year.** As such, the current remote instruction plan will remain in effect through the end of this school year. Though disappointing in many ways, this decision is one which I consider to be prudent and appropriate. The Governor has clearly recognized that running school under the current restrictions on distancing and congregation is impractical, and that COVID-19 infection rates have not yet receded to the point where school attendance can be deemed sufficiently safe.

Meals

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be served, as they have been since the onset of this closure. To date, our food service personnel have prepared and distributed over 35,000 meals. These individuals deserve great accolades. As before, I strongly encourage anyone in our school district who needs a meal to avail themselves of this service.

Childcare

Through partnership with the Plattsburgh YMCA, child care for essential workers is being provided in our district. I invite you to reach out to the YMCA at (518) 561-4290 to learn more about this program.

Eventual Reopening

District officials have been working hard for several weeks to create the framework of an eventual reopening plan. While it is impossible to predict the restrictions which may be in place in September, we have given significant consideration both to the logistical considerations of reopening school, and to the best instructional strategies. This pandemic has been a traumatic experience for students, and plans are being finalized for student supports as well as for academic assessment and intervention. These plans should be finalized by May 8th, and parents should expect communication about this planned framework shortly thereafter.

Events

Sadly, today's closure decision makes clear that many of the special events which take place throughout the Spring will be cancelled. In keeping, this decision ends any opportunity for a

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Spring interscholastic athletics season. Events will continue to be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and some have already been rescheduled for next Fall. With regards to graduation, the district has a commitment to the Class of 2020 to find some fitting way to celebrate this group and their unique experience. No specific alternate graduation arrangements have yet been made, but district personnel will continue to work with senior class officers to develop a creative, appropriate ceremony.

Continued Focus on Schoolwork

Please help us impress upon students that the remote instruction plan is not optional – it is required, and student performance may impact future academic placement. Our district has a well-developed plan for engaging students who become non-participatory in their schoolwork. So please encourage students to complete their daily instructional routine, and complete all required student work.

Mental Health Supports

As you well know, schools are much more than just centers of education. Amongst the various other societal functions which our schools perform, mental health support is central. These resources continue to exist, and our School Counselors and Psychologists remain busy supporting those in need. Understandably, identifying individuals who are struggling can be more difficult during a period of closure, so I'll again ask that everyone (students, parents, teachers) refer any concerns to our district so that we can connect with those who might benefit from our help.

Finally, I'll echo the Governor's encouragement that we all try to make the best of this bad situation. This closure has been incredibly difficult, but our community's response has been exceptional. Stay the course, value what limited connections still exist, and join me in looking forward to when we can be together again.

Sincerely,

Jay Lebrun

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