



PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Plattsburgh CSD parents and guardians:

Today is a difficult day for most of us. Feelings of uncertainty and anxiety are natural, and I am hopeful that the attachment -- the first of many messages to follow which outline our specific plans to sustain instruction through this period of school closure -- will start to alleviate these emotions.

As I have shared with you in previous correspondences, district personnel have been working hard for some time to prepare for today's closure decision. I implore you to read the attached plan in detail, but some of the important considerations are as follows:

- Students will receive home-based instruction led by their regular Teacher(s). Teachers have been working hard on class-specific plans, and all student materials will be complete and assembled by tomorrow at 3p.m..
- This new approach to instruction will begin on Tuesday, March 17th, and will vary somewhat between classes and, more notably, between grade levels.
- Consideration has been given to the varying degree of internet connectivity in households, and although increased access to online resources may enrich students' learning, paper-based resources will be made available, and only student or parent access to periodic email communication will be necessary to deploy this instructional plan.
- Consideration has also been given to the many non-instructional functions which public schools perform. As you will see, beginning Tuesday, March 17th, we will be providing free student meals. Moreover, student supports will continue through this closure.
- Faculty and staff are expected to continue to work through this closure, but many will be asked to work remotely, and the roles which others perform might change. Regardless, our students will continue to receive excellent education, support, and outreach.
- Parents and guardians will have some new responsibilities, and the first of these will present itself on Tuesday, March 17th. On that day, there will be two periods of time (11a.m.-1p.m. and 4p.m.-6p.m.) during which parents (and students if desired) will need to visit their school to receive instructional materials which have been prepared for them, retrieve personal belongings, receive medications stored in our Nurses' offices, collect textbooks, notebooks, and school materials which are not already at home, etc.. School personnel will be available to assist families during these times. We will all need, as is our new normal, to practice reasonable social distancing during these visits to the schools, but it is very important that parents

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that advances intellectual, physical, social, and cultural development.

secure the educational materials which will support the delivery of home-based instruction.

- Moving forward, you should expect daily outreach from our Teachers and Student Support Personnel, and frequent updates from myself and our Principals.

Clearly, the mode in which education and other services are delivered will change, but this plan ensures that meaningful programming can continue throughout this closure. There remains much that is not known (NYS testing, Regents' testing, etc.), but our parent communication channels have proven very effective, and we will continue to update you regularly as information becomes available.

None of the challenges which have befallen us are ideal, but I am certain that our school community will overcome these. I believe that we are as well-positioned as any district to navigate this closure, and our entire Plattsburgh CSD staff is grateful for your patience and your support during these unprecedented times.

Our new (albeit temporary) reality has begun. We will succeed together. Please advance any questions to your child's Teacher, Principal, or myself.

With utmost confidence and gratitude,

Jay Lebrun
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