



PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jay Lebrun

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Dear Plattsburgh CSD Parents & Guardians:

These are increasingly uncertain times, and the situation surrounding coronavirus (COVID-19) is ever-changing. I've been incredibly proud of the measured, appropriate reaction of our faculty, staff, students, and parents, and I encourage the same approach as circumstances continue to evolve. As of this moment, there are no confirmed cases from amongst our students, faculty, or staff. Moreover, to my knowledge, there are no current confirmed cases within Clinton County. Clearly however, this virus continues to spread, and this status could change. District personnel are in regular contact with local public health officials, and I had occasion to meet with the leaders of these agencies yesterday. Both they and we continue to await certain guidance from our respective State agencies, but some things are very clear.... notably, that any confirmed case of this virus within our student/faculty/staff population will automatically trigger a 24-hour district closure, during which time cleaning will continue and local public health officials will closely examine the case so as to recommend the duration of an extended closure. It was made clear during my meeting with these officials yesterday, that although the requisite closure is 24-hours, the very process of tracing the path and contacts of an infected person may take 2-3 days, and it therefore seems clear that any confirmed infection from within our school community would, minimally, necessitate a multi-day closure.

To date, relatively-few school districts in New York State have closed. However, an increasing number of States have introduced universal closure measures to combat the spread of the virus, and New York may follow suit. What has not yet been made clear by the State Education Department is how any extended school closure would impact the 180-day school year requirement: would it be waived in the event of mandated closure?, would the school year be extended?, would some form of remote education be permitted?, etc.. School administrators across the State have implored the State Education Department to offer guidance on this matter, and I am hopeful that information on this topic will soon be released.

Though full school closure has not yet been mandated by public health officials, they have made some recommendations that will impact the many events and activities which accompany our education process. Whether we're dealing with cancellations, postponements, and/or modifications, most of these events involve a great deal of emotion and planning, and I'm sorry that some will not proceed as planned. The status of these events is fluid, and is subject to change at any time. However, here are some updates surrounding school events and activities:

- The two international travel trips in April, naturally, are cancelled. Both groups are working towards rescheduling for next year.
- Any faculty, staff, or student travel outside of our BOCES/Section VII region, through April 20th, is cancelled. Our BOCES/Section VII region, approximately, refers to Clinton and Essex Counties, NY.

MISSION

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

- Yesterday, Governor Cuomo made a decree limiting the size of congregation/assembly, and this will impact upcoming concerts/drama productions. Each of these events will be considered individually, in conjunction with the organizer(s), and modifications (ie. limiting audience size), postponement, or cancellation decisions will be made on a case-specific basis. Please await updates on these performances from the event organizers.
- Building-use permits are cancelled through April 20th. We take great pride in allowing community groups to use our facilities, but this practice will need to be temporarily halted. This will include the hosting of College Board testing (SAT, ACT).
- School assemblies and school-specific activities (grandparents' days, science fairs, college fairs, parent-association meetings, etc.) will be considered on a case-specific basis, but cancellations or modifications (ie. limiting participation) are certain. School administrators will provide updates about school-specific activities.
- Any student trips to Plattsburgh State University or Clinton Community College are cancelled.
- The status of Project Connect afterschool care is uncertain, as the majority of the staff are affected by the SUNY closure. The program director is working hard to ensure adequate staffing, and updates will come directly through that program.
- School dances through April 20th are cancelled.

The above summary does not, of course, address every one of our many events, and you are welcome to contact your child's school to inquire about any specifics. For now, athletic events within our Section will proceed, pending any change in condition or direction from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. However, any home athletic contests with teams from outside of our Section will be cancelled. Again, outright school closure would render moot any conversation about event/activity cancellation.

I expect that changing circumstances will necessitate further updates, and I will share any pertinent information with you as soon as possible. As always, please continue to encourage best hygiene practices, and reasonable social distancing. Together, we will endure this pandemic, and I'm sorry for the interruptions to our wonderful school district that this situation has necessitated.

Best,



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