



PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jay Lebrun

Superintendent of Schools

49 Broad Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Ph: (518) 957-6002

jay@plattscsd.org

www.plattscsd.org

January 13, 2021

Dear Hornet students, parents, faculty & staff:

You may feel, as I often do, that there's a certain 'Groundhog Day' effect to this COVID pandemic – that certain actions and events are very repetitive. To that end, unfortunately, this message resembles one which I sent to you just last week.

As infection rate data in Clinton County continued to increase after last week's decision, and remains high and concerning, I do not yet feel that it is yet appropriate/safe to return to the hybrid model. Therefore, **the current period of remote instruction will continue through next week, and we now hope that students will return to the hybrid mode of instruction on Monday, January 25th.**

This extension of the remote mode applies to all student groups. We continue to aggressively pursue models and scenarios through which certain student populations, likely beginning with elementary students in self-contained special education programs, will be able to gradually return to in-person instruction. However, at this time, even the notion of returning this small number of students to the hybrid mode is problematic given the infection rates and the struggles of the Clinton County Health Department to keep up with the contact tracing effort. We will continue to monitor COVID data and to explore scenarios to return students to the hybrid mode as soon as possible.

Moving forward, we all recognize the need to see students return to school (first to the hybrid mode, and eventually to fully in-person instruction). I can't offer you any accurate timeline for such, but my colleagues and I want desperately for hybrid instruction to resume on 1/25, and for a gradual 'ramping up' towards fully in-person schooling to begin as soon as possible thereafter. The post-holiday surge emerged largely as projected, and we should now all hope that case counts recede and that we can discuss in earnest a plan for the return to 'regular' instruction.

In the meantime, our district has introduced a system for delivering student meals (a full 5-day supply) directly to homes. An email message featuring an easy survey has been sent to parents, and families are also welcome to simply call their child(ren)'s school(s) to request such.

Throughout this continuing period of remote instruction, I implore you to abide by COVID protocols. Representatives from the Clinton County Health Department have shared some concerning reports about behaviors which undermine our community's health. So, I

MISSION

Our mission is to educate each student of the Plattsburgh City School District by creating challenging, supportive, and interactive learning

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

respectfully request your assistance with the following:

- If you receive a call from an unknown number with a name that in any way reference public health or contact tracing, please answer that call. Given the volume of cases in our region, a Statewide contact tracing program is sometimes utilized. Please answer your phone when the caller's name references COVID, health, contact tracing, or something similar.
- When you speak with public health representatives, please be as honest and accurate as you can about exposure and interaction. We've heard of numerous situations of conflicting and inaccurate information, which serves to slow the contact tracing effort and make such less effective.
- The CCHD reports multi-day delays in the contact tracing and COVID-notification efforts. So, if you receive information (perhaps from your physician or from a testing service) indicating that a member of your household has tested positive, please begin the isolation/quarantine process immediately (even though it may take some time before you hear directly from public health authorities). There is great concern that COVID-positive individuals (whether knowingly or not) are interacting with the larger community.

Otherwise, I repeat my standing request (and thanks) for your efforts in staying current with schoolwork. This pandemic has impeded education around the world. Our goal is to have students regress as little as possible, and to emerge from this terrible period in a position of relative strength vis-à-vis students in other districts. So doing will require commitment to participate in lessons and complete assignments despite the obvious challenges. I thank you again for your partnership in ensuring that our Hornets' negative educational impact is limited.

With thanks,

Jay Lebrun

MISSION

Our mission is to educate each student of the Plattsburgh City School District by creating challenging, supportive, and interactive learning that advances intellectual, physical, social, and cultural development.