

Onteora Central School District

PO Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412

Jodi DeLucia, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We continue to monitor the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) situation very carefully. At this time there are NO confirmed cases of Covid-19 in our school district or our community. However, due to the rapidly changing nature of this situation, we want all students and families to be prepared in the event that we need to close schools. We want our students and families to have continued access to high quality, meaningful materials should they be home for any extended period. Please do not hesitate to contact your building principal, or my office directly if your family has limited access to technology to help us better plan and provide for your child(ren).

Over the next few days, you will be seeing “emergency instructional packets and materials” being sent home with elementary and middle school students. These packets are intended for home use and should be kept at home. At the same time, many of our resources will be available online through teacher websites, Google Classroom, and other digital platforms that students are familiar with. Information for accessing these materials is being sent home with each child individually. Please work with your children to ensure that they engage with the materials that are being provided to them. It is so important that we keep our children’s minds active!

Grades K-3

In our K-3 programs the materials will include a variety of grade level appropriate Reading, Writing, Word Work, Math Fluency Reinforcement, and Math Games. They are intended to reinforce skills, prevent regression, and provide students and families with meaningful instructional materials should we have an unfortunate, lengthy closure of more than just a couple of days. In addition, children will be sent home with books targeted specifically for their reading level. Please encourage your children to read, read, read! They love reading with you, and it will help prevent the loss of very important skills.

Grades 4-6

Our Grades 4-6 students will be using Google Classroom as a platform for some student-centered work, as well as being sent home with emergency instructional packets and grade level reading materials. Beginning Wednesday, all students were sent home with at least one accessible book in their book bags. Teacher websites will include links to all district purchased or free online resources that can be used at home to reinforce skill development. Please encourage your students to read, read, read! It is one of the most important tasks we can ask children to engage into maintain their skills during a closure.

Grades 7-8

Students in grades 7 and 8 will receive grade level skills and review packets. These materials are being specifically designed to maintain preparedness and readiness in all courses. Teachers will create packets across all content areas, and will be provided time to work collaboratively to prepare folders of work for each student. These will be sent home in the coming days. Please ask your children about them. These packets will be linked on the website for each team (7th and 8th) should you have the need to access them electronically. As with all of our students, please encourage your children to engage with this material should we have a closure and to spend time reading every day!

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Grades 9-12

In grades 9-12 each department is working closely to develop materials that will best meet the needs of their students. They will be using of various electronic platforms, including Google Classroom, Castle Learning, and digital textbooks, workbooks, and supplemental materials, particularly since every high school student has a designated Chromebook. Some courses will be providing hard copies of instructional material. Please watch for them in the coming days. Additionally, teachers are providing students with various supplies that they may need at home to complete projects (e.g., AP Art classes). The staff is taking measures to identify students who have limited access to technology or who need additional resources should we have a lengthy closure. Teachers have been, and will continue, to discuss the available resources for their specific classes with their students.

Please know that the entire faculty, staff, and administration of the Onteora School District is dedicated to maintaining the academic integrity of our programming while attending to the very important social emotional, health and wellness, and individual needs of all of our students. I want to thank each and every one of them for the time and care they are putting into the creation of these materials and the supports they are prepared to provide. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office directly, or to your building's principal.

Sincerely,
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