

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

Victoria McLaren
Superintendent of Schools

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March 27, 2020

Dear Onteora Families,

As our closure continues, we are hoping that you are all staying healthy and enjoying this time with each other. With any luck, the weather will continue to be pleasant and everyone can get outside and enjoy some sunshine. We miss your children terribly, and are hopeful that we will be back in school in the near future. While our official return to school date is April 2nd, I do anticipate that we may soon hear from Governor Cuomo that this closure will actually be longer than he originally announced.

With that in mind, as you know, our staff has been working hard to prepare for continuing to support our students in this very different environment. Beginning next week, our teachers will be making contact with their students, providing work and direction, and creating a new sense of normal as much as possible. As we embark on this next phase, please remember that this is new for all of us. We have noticed that the capacity of the internet is being stressed and your students may experience service disruptions while interacting with their classes. This is something that we unfortunately cannot control, and with so much of the country working and learning from home, it is unavoidable. Please refer to the Instruction Update dated March 24, 2020

(https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1585055417/onteorak12nyus/mhpcktidep80qsm5f7lr/InstructionLetter3-24-20_1.pdf) for additional information.

We are going to begin slowly and let our students get acclimated to this way of learning. You can expect to see welcome posts, interaction posts, videos, and even a couple of live interactions using Google Meets (Hangouts). Upper grades will continue to see assignments that will need to be submitted as well. Please note that beginning Monday, all K-8 students should log in to their google classrooms using their school email address. For grades K-8 Google Classroom can be accessed from your teachers home page. Please feel free to try signing in now. If you are unable to sign in, please email DistrictLogins@onteora.k12.ny.us.

Many of you have received devices from the district and have been getting your students signed on. As you are assisting your children to access our teacher sites and resources, please feel free to reference the following link to learn about the Google platform which can also be found on the District homepage: <https://sites.google.com/onteora.k12.ny.us/trainingsite/home>

We were able to distribute a lot of devices already, and we thank everyone that picked up for their patience and cooperation. The procedure seemed to work really well and we are thankful to have been able to provide the support to you. We have also heard from a number of families that were not part of our first distribution for one reason or another. We are aware that there are still families that need a device and are creating a plan for a second round of distribution early next week. More information will be shared tomorrow.

Our meal delivery program has been a great success. If you have not joined this program and feel that you need to have this support for your children, please fill out the form which can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScte8tD9qnmaXYOMY20ghM3XbTY1jDgFHzmV28waNPV7rzp7A/viewform>

Meals are being distributed on Mondays and Wednesdays. Any Onteora family can join, and once you have joined the program, you will continue to receive the meals until you notify the district that you no longer want to participate.

As always, please know that there are a lot of people that are here to support you and your children. I know that many teachers have been actively supporting their students already, but starting next week, we will begin to transition into our active learning phase. Feel free to reach out to your Principal at any time should you have instructional questions or need additional support. Please make sure that you are taking care of yourselves and reassuring your children that we are all still here for them and we can't wait to see them once we return to school.

Sincerely,
Victoria McLaren
Superintendent of Schools