

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 6, 2020

Good Afternoon,

Spring is a season of change. This spring, we find ourselves in unprecedented times, not only in education, but in our world. We are all growing, changing, and adapting together, and I hope that as we enter week four many of you have had the opportunity to create some routines and structures to best support your family's needs.

There are a number of important updates that we wanted to share with you. This morning, Governor Cuomo announced that **all New York State schools will remain CLOSED until April 29, 2020**. As you know, we have been preparing for the likelihood of an extended closure of schools since the onset of the pandemic. We are already on the right path and prepared to continue to support our students and community in all the ways that we can.

At this morning's New York State Board of Regents meeting, Chancellor Betty Rosa announced that **steps were being taken to cancel the June NYS Regents exams**. Chancellor Rosa indicated that the New York State Education Department (NYSED) will be issuing guidance to local districts tomorrow, April 7, 2020. Once we have received that NYSED guidance document, we will provide further communication about how this change will impact our students. There were a number of additional items that we are expecting further guidance on, and as we receive information, we will continue to share it with you all.

Last week was our first complete week of remote and online learning, and it was very successful. We were able to reach almost all of our families, and students had the opportunities to engage with their teachers and their friends. We understand that adapting to online learning at home is not an easy task. All we can ask is that you do your best to support learning and that you keep the lines of communication with your child's teachers open.

We will continue to provide meals to those in need during the extended closure. Please check our website for specifics about food distribution.

The safety of our students, staff, and families remains a top priority. We encourage everyone to continue to protect their health and well-being by taking all recommended precautions and following all issued stay-at-home and social distancing orders. We want our entire Onteora community to stay safe and healthy.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we embark on this new learning journey. If we keep working collaboratively, and communicating openly, we will all get through this together! Go Eagles!!

Sincerely,

Victoria McLaren
Superintendent of Schools

Jodi DeLucia
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction