

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

Victoria McLaren
Superintendent of Schools

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April 16, 2020

Dear Onteora Families,

As you may have heard, Governor Cuomo announced today that schools and nonessential businesses will remain **closed through May 15th**. While we have not received the details yet, this is confirmation that we will continue as we have been for another month at least. I am so grateful for the patience that you have had for the past several weeks, and hard work that both you and all of our staff have been putting in to support the needs of your children.

I wanted to check in with you now that we have been in this new learning environment for a couple of weeks. I am incredibly proud of our faculty and our students for adjusting to the world of virtual learning so quickly. This is a very different way of interacting and I know that all of our teachers are completely dedicated to making it work.

Dr. DeLucia and I have been meeting with our elementary Principals and faculty to review the successes that we have had and to brainstorm on how we can improve. First I'd like to let you know that the theme we have been stressing is to be compassionate and understanding. We want everyone to know that we realize that this is a difficult time and everyone is experiencing it in their own way. Many of us have our own children at home and are attempting to support them while also doing our job. This is the case for our staff and our families. We absolutely understand that this is not a situation in which anyone can expect learning to look like it does while we are operating normally. This will result in each family doing what they can to support their student's learning and it will look different for every family. Please do not stress yourself or your children if they do not complete all of the work that is being provided. We will continue to support every student to the best of our abilities, and we know that on any given day, a child may get lots of work done or they may not be able to get much work done, and that is ok. We will continue to communicate with our students and let them know that we are here for them, that we miss them, and that we will be thrilled to see them again when we are allowed to go back to school. This situation feels enormous and at times it can be overwhelming, but our first priority right now must be the mental health of everyone. Academics and learning are important, but our children need to feel safe and loved before they can grow as learners.

As we continue to move forward, please reach out to your child's teacher and Principal for support and guidance. We will continue to post resources on our webpage as we receive them.

Sincerely,

Victoria McLaren
Superintendent of Schools
Onteora Central School District