

March 22, 2020

Dear Harpurville Families:

I hope you are all doing well and adjusting to the new lifestyle that has been thrust upon us as we deal with COVID-19. It certainly has been a challenge, but we are resilient, strong, and caring – characteristics that help us to persevere through just about anything!

Thank you, thank you, thank you...

I have never been more proud of our school community than I have been over the past week. The work, the kindness, the support, and the love that's been shown by everyone is beyond words. Times of adversity have a way of showing the character of people and a community. I think we have so much to be proud of and thankful for when we take a look at everyone that is a part of our Harpurville school community. First and foremost, please join me in thanking and in sending some positive thoughts to our food service workers that have been so diligent in making sure that the meals are available each and every day. We have had a tremendous turnout of people stopping into the school between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to receive the grab-and-go meals. These ladies are true superstars and I can tell you with confidence, nothing makes them happier than making sure our children are fed! Let's also thank Officer Z for his presence and his support in helping to keep things moving smoothly at the school for meal pick-up and just general safety too. Finally, let's thank our transportation department for helping us get all of the instructional materials delivered to our students last week too! Without them, it would have been a very difficult task. I know that everyone involved in those deliveries absolutely loved getting those materials in the hands of our students. We also loved seeing our kids, their parents, and in some cases, even the family dog came out to greet us!

I also want to thank our teachers, support staff, and administrators for the quick planning and implementation of our instructional plan throughout last week and now moving forward. And, thank you to the families and students for making all of this work too! It is important that we keep moving forward with the education of our students during this time. It is important that our students stay connected, albeit from a distance, with their teachers and their classmates. It is important that our students continue to think, read, write, and communicate about their learning. The stories that emerged from last week with how teachers and students were connecting with each other are simply awesome! And, they are heartwarming! I am looking forward to hearing of the many innovative ways that everyone is continuing to learn with each other and interact with each other. I am so impressed!

Meals continue to be available for our students...

Switching gears for just a moment, the Harpurville Schools will continue to make meals available in the exact same way as last week: at the elementary school from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. I have also posted the schedule for the meal pick-up service across Broome County on the website. It is listed in the "letters and special notifications" section of our webpage dedicated to the coronavirus information. Here is a direct link to the schedule for Broome County locations and pick-up times: <https://www.hcs.stier.org/Downloads/Broome%20County%20Meal%20Sites%203-23%20to%203-27%20FINAL.pdf>

Important educational news...

In other educational news from this week, the NYS Education Department announced the suspension of all of the grades 3-8 state assessments for this year. This includes the ELA, mathematics, and science assessments that are given to students on an annual basis. That certainly takes some pressure off, but I know that everyone was working hard to prepare for these assessments this year. I am appreciative of the work and the learning that has occurred and we should keep working hard to make sure that our students are ready for whatever comes next for them. We have to ensure that our students have the skills and knowledge necessary to make a seamless transition back to school, whenever that time comes.

I know that there are a lot of questions out there about trips, extra-curricular activities, Regents exams, graduation, etc. We just don't have any answers to these questions yet, but as information is available, we will be sure to push it out to our families as quickly as possible. Our website and direct information from me or one of the other administrators is the most reliable information that you can receive as it relates to our school district.

The district website is the best resource for accurate information...

In closing, please continue to check the website for updates and information related to our school closure as a result of the coronavirus. Our webpage dedicated to this information is located at:

<https://www.hcs.stier.org/coronavirusinformation.aspx>. I expect that information will continue to emerge in the coming days and weeks as our society wrestles with this issue. As such, I will provide important updates, as necessary, in this forum. Please be sure to contact your child's teachers, counselor, principal, other administrator, or me if we can be of any assistance. We are here to help!

Best wishes for your well-being and safety!

Yours in education,



Mr. Michael J. Rullo
Superintendent of Schools

