



April 12, 2020

Dear Harpursville Families:

Happy Sunday and for those of you that celebrate, I hope you've had an enjoyable Easter or Passover! As is always the case, I continue to send my best wishes along to you and your family for good health and safety. Before I move on, I would ask that you send some positive thoughts along for our food service workers, as well as Officer Z, our volunteer support staff members, and administrators, who have been serving meals to our community on Mondays and Thursdays over the past several weeks. And, they will again this week with joy in their heart and a smile on their face. It seems like we've had more lousy weather days than good ones on our service days and these people "tough it out" every single time to make sure they are there for our students and their families. I know the last couple of Thursdays, in particular, have been brutal with the cold, wind, and rain. This team of service-minded, caring individuals are superheroes and we appreciate them beyond words!

Grab-and-go meals continue this week with one additional meal served for the weekend...

Our meal distribution plan in the district will be the same for this week as it was for last week. This includes the locations and times that we've been at the different drop-off sites within the district too. Furthermore, the Broome County meal pick-up locations are posted on the website and can be found in the "letters and special notifications" section on the webpage dedicated to coronavirus information or at this link:

<https://www.hcs.stier.org/Downloads/Broome%20County%20Meal%20Sites%204-13%20to%204-17%20FINAL.pdf>

Again, you will notice that we are serving meals on Monday and Thursday of this week. There is a little bit of additional good news for this week. Not only will each person receive 3 breakfast and 3 lunch meals to cover Monday through Wednesday, but on Thursday, each person will also receive 3 breakfast and 3 lunch meals to cover Thursday through Saturday! This is great for everyone to receive another day of food and, hopefully, it is still a help to only have to come to get meals a couple of times during the week. We hope to see you!

Our "closed until" date is through April 29th...

I sent this out during the middle of last week, but I want to make sure everyone remains aware of the current timeline that's been established by the Governor for our tentative return to school. The latest Executive Order has schools closed through April 29th (meaning the return date would be on the 30th). It will likely be another week or two before we hear any new plans for a return to school or extended closure. But, as you know, information can and has been coming at a variety of times. Thus, I will continue to communicate any news that I hear to everyone as expeditiously as possible so that you are well-informed and can remain prepared.

In the interest of just taking another opportunity to make sure that everyone is seeing all important news, I offer the following bits of information below.

The school work being provided to students really does matter...

There is still responsibility and accountability for the students in terms of making sure they successfully complete their coursework during the period of closure. Students need to have “met the standards assessed in the provided coursework” by the end of the school year. Therefore, the body of work that each student has completed throughout the entire school year, including the period of closure, for each of their courses is critically important. Let me reiterate, all students are expected to be doing the work that they are involved with right now. On a similar note, information about the end of the 3rd marking period will be this Friday, April 17th and new learning will be occurring during the 4th quarter of the school year.

Expanded internet at the school...

Just a reminder that the network extenders installed at the school remain available for your use. The two HCS mini-vans that are out in the parking lot near the bus garage have the wireless access points (WAPs) right in them! Each WAP can handle about 30 devices at once. This will allow anyone with one of our district-issued devices to come down to the school and access the school’s internet. All you need to do is pull in the parking lot near one of the vans and the device should automatically connect. This can be really helpful for students who need to upload work that they may have completed off-line or they may want to spend a little time interacting with classmates or content. Feel free to use this opportunity as much as you need to!

School budget and board member vote dates have been pushed back...

The calendar for school district’s adopting their budgets for the next school year, the vote date for those budgets, and the process for board member elections has been pushed out to a date beyond June 1. As of today, a new schedule and any associated processes have not been determined and communicated to the public by state officials. Once this information is provided, I will make sure to push it out to our community. The NYS Legislature has adopted a state-level operating budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, including school aid, thus the district will continue to move forward with its budget planning for the subsequent school year in the coming weeks. The 2020-2021 budget will be a topic at all Board of Education meetings between now and whenever the new vote date is established.

The district website continues to be 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 weeks as we continue to address this issue. As such, I will provide important updates, as necessary, by direct emails and through posts on our website. 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
