



HARPURSVILLE

CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Dear Harpurville Families:

When will it end? You could consider that question with respect to the impact on society that we've been dealing with or you could consider that question with respect to the cold, wind, and snow that we were forced to "enjoy" this weekend! If we look at the bright side of both of these things, we've been able to spend more quality time with our immediate families. This weekly update is very much about taking care of those most dear to us and thinking about the future. With that in mind, I offer some information for your consideration this week.

Let's celebrate our Hornet mothers on this Mother's Day...

The selfless and critical role that a mother plays in the lives and education of her children has never been more apparent or important than it's been over the past many weeks. A mother's love, a mother's hug and kiss, a mother's words of encouragement and support, the safety a mother provides – all of those little things that only a mother can do. We are fortunate to have a community full of amazing Hornet moms! Our hats are off to you, our beloved Hornet moms! Happy Mother's Day!

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

Let me start by offering a heart-felt, milk-mustached *THANK YOU* to the Dairy Farmers of America for all of the milk they've provided to our district over the past several weeks. It's been fantastic to see so many residents stop down to the school to pick up some of the delicious and creamy milk that's been available. We are beyond appreciative for the generosity extended by the Dairy Farmers of America and for all of our farmers for that matter. Where would we be without our farmers? Be sure to reach out and thank all of those that work hard to provide us with our food and our milk!

Our meal distribution plan in the district will be the same for this week as it has been for the past several weeks. 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%205-11%20to%205-15%20FINAL.pdf> .

Consistent with past couple of weeks, you will notice that we are serving meals on Monday and Thursday of this week and each person will receive 3 breakfast and 3 lunch meals to cover each of the respective days (Monday-Wednesday and then Thursday-Saturday). It is highly likely that this will continue to be the pattern in the weeks to come.

Keeping our Hornets' community safe and looking to the future...

With every passing week, our desire to have our school family back together grows and grows. We know that it will look different when that day comes, we just don't know how it will look quite yet. We also know that it is going to

take planning, coordination, and an adjustment to whatever the new version of normal is. One of those areas that we need to consider is within our athletic programs. The MAC league, of which our school is a part, is trying to do some forward-thinking and information gathering to help it be as ready as possible for the fall and beyond. As such, we are looking for input from all interested parties. There is a link to a survey on the athletics page of our website, using a platform called Thoughtexchange, which will allow you to provide responses to a question prompt and then respond to other people's thoughts too. We need and value your input, so please feel free to visit the exchange and share your thinking. The survey can be found here: <https://www.hcs.stier.org/Athletics.aspx>

The 2020 Census is an important process for our school district...

I was recently contacted by the local partnership specialist with the US Census Bureau asking for help in increasing the census response rates in our community. She indicated that our response rate is below the average. There are significant implications for our school district if we do not have the most accurate data possible provided. I shared the following information in the March district newsletter and I think it's worth repeating here:

You might be asking, "Why is Mr. Rullo talking about the census in the school's newsletter?" The New York State School Boards Association provides an excellent answer to this question in its February 3, 2020 edition of *On Board*, in which the author, Paul Heiser writes, "The census has significant implications for public schools. The data help determine how billions of federal education dollars are distributed, since funding formulas rely heavily on population and poverty levels." Thus, we must ensure that our district's data is as accurate as possible so that we receive the funding that we are entitled to. Mr. Heiser goes on to write that allocations of federal dollars impacts things in our community like: Title funding for schools (a significant impact to the Harpursville Schools), the National School Lunch Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Unrelated to direct funding, be reminded that an accurate census count also has an impact on the congressional representation our state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, thereby helping to support increased influence in a manner consistent with the needs and values of our local communities. So, please be sure to participate in the census process and to make sure that your friends and extended family members do too. The next 10 years depends on it!

I would encourage you to visit <https://2020census.gov/en.html> if you haven't done so already and please tell your family, friends, and neighbors to do the same. This is really important for the future of our district!

The district website continues to be the best resource for accurate information...

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 will continue to 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