



HARPURSVILLE

CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Dear Harpurville Families:

I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy a couple of nice days in a row this weekend! Who knows, maybe we're onto something new with some decent weather. I know that I'm ready and it felt good to be outside. As I was out in the yard playing ladder ball with my kids earlier today, my daughter turned to me and said, "You know dad, this just feels like a normal springtime weekend where we can be outside having fun together." And, she was right. And while we were playing, we weren't thinking about coronavirus or being "stuck" at home. In fact, it was exactly where we wanted to be...together. That simple moment was a perfect reminder of how being home allows us to slow down and connect. With that in mind, I am pleased to write to you this week and I hope my letter allows us to connect just a little bit too.

Grab-and-go meals continue this week...

I'm guessing that you're sensing the pattern that we have to our food service each week. ☺ We continue to love seeing so many residents stop down to the school to pick up some food, which included bags of fresh apples and some Gatorade last week! Yum! 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). We'll also be at the same off-campus locations and at the same times that we've been out in the district too. 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%205-18%20to%205-22%20FINAL.pdf> This will be the schedule for each week in the future, unless we send a message to indicate otherwise.

2020-2021 Budget and Board of Education Information is coming soon...

On Tuesday, May 12, 2020, the Board of Education approved the proposed budget for the 2020-2021 school year. The budget newsletter and all of the other required budget information will be coming to your households soon, so keep an eye out. One of the things that you'll want to keep watch for is the absentee ballot that will be provided this year for the vote. As you likely know, by order of the governor, absentee ballot is the only way that school district votes will occur this year. The information related to this will be in the many mailings that will be arriving soon. Please be reminded that the vote date is Tuesday, June 9, 2020 and all of the absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 p.m. in order to be counted for the vote. If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the district clerk, Tabitha Rhodes, at tabbyr@hcs.stier.org, our school business administrator, Joe McLaughlin, at jjmclaughin@hcs.stier.org, or me.

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
