



May 22, 2020

Dear Harpurville Families:

It finally feels like the end of May and with the holiday weekend upon us, there is no better time to have beautiful weather than the Memorial Day weekend. Before I begin with some important updates this week, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and safe holiday and I hope that you are able to take some time to pay homage to those we honor on this Memorial Day weekend.

It seems like every passing week during this school closure provided new information that we were having to react to. And, of course, the calendar marches on, requiring us to provide information that is relevant to the changing time period. This week is no different. With that in mind, I offer some important updates and information:

***Grab-and-go meals will continue ...***

We love seeing so many residents stop down to the school to pick up some food during our food service times. I know that many of you are already aware, but I wanted to be sure to remind you that there is a slight change in our serving days next week due to the holiday. **Meals will be served on Tuesday and Thursday of this upcoming week from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.** to cover each of the days during that time period. We'll also be at the same off-campus locations and at the same times that we've been out in the district on both days. 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%205-25%20to%205-29%20FINAL.pdf>.

***The last day of instruction for students is...***

I know that many people are wondering when the last day of the school year is for students. Unless I get surprised with new information from the governor or another authority, the last day of instruction for students during the 2019-2020 school year is . . . (drum roll) . . . **Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>!** After that day, students can shut off their computers, Chromebooks, and iPads! I know all of the parents, family, and friends that have been helping out and supporting students with the remote learning are probably just as excited about this end date as the students are!

If you're wondering about what to do with a device that has been borrowed from the school, textbooks, library books, or some other school issued item once the school year is over, information will be provided at a later date for the collection of these things. Stay tuned...

***Graduation for the class of 2020 is on our minds every day...***

At the forefront of our minds is the manner in which we will be allowed to celebrate the graduation of our HCS Class of 2020. This has been extremely challenging as we have been waiting, and waiting, for information from local and state officials as to what might be allowed. That's left us to anticipate several different situations and we have about three different plans that we know we could successfully implement. First, as of this moment, graduation will still be held on

---

Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Our plan A is to have an in-person graduation at the school where our Class of 2020 can be together for one last time and their guests can see them graduate. Today, I submitted the Harpursville CSD proposed plan to the governor's office for (hopeful) approval that would allow our district to have a graduation ceremony in-person, on our campus. It would limit the number of people on campus, ensure appropriate distancing, implement the appropriate use of masks, but at least our students could be celebrated in the manner that they deserve. I cannot guarantee that the plan will be approved, but we are trying to make it happen! Keep your fingers crossed and send some positive thoughts for approval to whoever and whatever will help to get our plan approved.

I know the building principals and class/club advisors are working hard to coordinate details for other end-of-year events too. More details to come on items soon!

***What's happening for the summer...?***

This topic will continue to emerge and develop in the coming weeks and more specific information will be provided. However, this week, the governor announced that on-campus, in-person summer school will NOT be permitted. Thus, districts are left to implement remote summer school plans. We are putting plans in place to create some opportunities to support our students throughout the summer. More to come in the near future on this topic.

We are also developing a plan to make sure that meals are provided throughout the summer too. I had some conversation with our BOCES food services director this past week and we will be ready to make sure that meals are available all summer for our children. The schedule is in the works and will be made readily available when the time comes.

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

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. 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. There is also a mailbox outside of the district office for drop-off of your ballot, if needed. Please don't hesitate to contact the district clerk, Tabaitha Rhodes, at [tabbyr@hcs.stier.org](mailto:tabbyr@hcs.stier.org), our school business administrator, Joe McLaughlin, at [jjmclaughin@hcs.stier.org](mailto:jjmclaughin@hcs.stier.org), or me with any questions.

***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

---