



CENTRAL SQUARE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. Thomas J. Colabufo
Superintendent

March 16, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We sent out a notification that all schools in Oswego County were closed for students effective immediately, until the planned re-open date of April 14, but we want to be as pro-active as we can be to clarify any additional confusion. Oswego County schools are closed and Section 3 Athletics in conjunction with its member leagues have also suspended all sports until at least April 14, which can be seen here: <https://tinyurl.com/Section-3-Closure>. While schools are closed for students during this prolonged closure, **there will be NO practices** for athletics or music/band, even if coaches are not present. Oswego County Legislator James Weatherup gave the order to close schools for students to prevent students from gathering in an attempt to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Parents, in an effort to reduce the possible spread of COVID-19, we strongly recommend saying no to your children when they ask if they can sleep over at a friend's house or hang out with a group of friends, for at least the time being. There was a confirmed case of COVID-19 in Onondaga County today, and the health experts are predicting that there will be more confirmed cases. In an effort to reduce the potential spread, please have your children remain home or in your yard as I worry some students are treating this like a vacation. I am confident that the majority of you have already made this clear to your children.

As a District, we continue to plan and examine every aspect of our program so that we can still provide the basic necessities to continue to operate while providing a modified instructional program for our students throughout the closure. Clearly, this is an unprecedented time in our history, but what I have witnessed from our entire staff has been truly remarkable. Countless staff members have reached out to me and our administrative team asking what they can do to help. Community food pantries and local religious institutions across our District have offered their full support. Parents that work in the information technology field have reached out offering assistance knowing that distance learning will be the main source of providing instruction to thousands of students. Our four Special Patrol Officers volunteered to deliver food to families that cannot get to their local school for food distribution. Our amazing bus drivers are ready to be of service in the food distribution process if need be. Our Board of Education members spent all day Sunday helping remove the Chromebook charger cords from the hundreds of charging stations so that we are able to provide students with a Chromebook and charging cord so they have them throughout the closure period. The local mayors and Central Square Police Chief offered their services. Even students have reached out asking if there is anything they can do to help, which speaks volumes of their character and the parents that raised such civic-minded children. There are many pieces of our overall plan that we continue to work through and when they are finalized, they will be posted on our District website, Facebook page, and electronically blasted out to all parent and guardians.

This has been a very concerning and stressful time for everyone in our Country, but we assure you all that the staff members at Central Square are doing everything we can do to continue to support our students and their families throughout this time.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Colabufo
Superintendent