

February 11, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Please note: You can Find  
by pressing Ctrl or cloverleaf  
on Mac and F**

As you may know, a new coronavirus called 2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was first found in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This virus had not been found in humans before. This coronavirus can lead to fever, cough and trouble breathing or shortness of breath. There are thousands of diagnosed cases in China and new cases being diagnosed in a number of countries including the United States. This letter serves to provide information about this new virus.

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is not currently a concern for the general public and is not actively circulating among New Yorkers at this time. Therefore, there is no need to cancel school or social events, and there is no need for students or school staff to wear surgical masks at school.

**What do we know?**

Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working hard to learn as much as possible about this new virus, so that we can better understand how it spreads and causes illness. The CDC considers this virus to be a serious public health concern. Based on current information the CDC recommends avoiding travel to China. Updated travel information related to 2019-nCoV can be found at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-china>

**How Does 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus Spread?**

Health experts believe the virus probably spreads from animals to humans and from person to person. It's not clear yet how easily the virus spreads from person-to-person.

**Prevention**

There are currently no vaccines available to protect against this virus. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including 2019-nCoV:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- CDC recommends that travelers avoid all travel to China.

**Symptoms**

Information to date suggests that 2019-nCoV causes mild-to-moderate illness and symptoms like the flu, including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

**Are visitors from China being screened?**

Yes, as of February 2<sup>nd</sup> new screening protocols are conducted for individuals entering the US from China at designated airports.

PreK-12 schools may have students who attend school and have traveled to various areas in Asia, including China. Students should not be excluded from school or any school activities based on race, country of origin, or recent travel (or a family member's recent travel), including to any part of China. Schools may only exclude a student if a local health department informs the school that a student must comply with a quarantine order or the student is symptomatic of a communicable or infectious disease pursuant to Education Law §906.

**Important Health Information for Those Who Have Recently Traveled to Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and Experience Symptoms**

If you recently traveled to Wuhan, China and feel sick with fever, cough or trouble breathing; OR you develop symptoms within 14 days of traveling there, you should:

- Seek medical care right away. Call ahead and tell them about your travel and symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Stay home, except for seeking medical care.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Contact your local health department.

This is an emerging, rapidly changing situation. For questions please contact your local department of health or the NYS DOH Novel Coronavirus hotline at **1-888-364-3065**.

We encourage you to keep up to date about 2019-nCoV, its treatment and prevention by visiting the following websites:

**Additional Resources**

CDC's dedicated 2019-nCoV website at <https://www.cdc.gov/nCoV>.

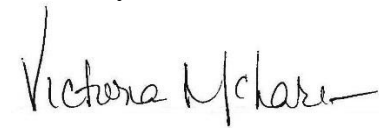
NYSDOH's dedicated 2019-nCoV website at <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

NYSDOH directory of local health departments

[https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact\\_information/](https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact_information/)

New York State Center for School Health website at [www.schoolhealthny.com](http://www.schoolhealthny.com)

Sincerely,



Victoria McLaren  
Superintendent of Schools

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

**Victoria McLaren**  
Superintendent of Schools

(845) 657-6383  
Fax (845) 657-8742

February 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may recall, we sent a letter home recently regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). We also posted the letter on the Health Services webpage, which can be found here:

<https://www.onteorak12.ny.us/departments/health-services>

Please feel free to check back to this page periodically, as we will post any updated information or guidance to this location. If there is a local outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, we will work closely with the Ulster County Health Department to address the situation within our District, as is described in our District Wide Safety Plan. In the case of a mass illness or epidemic, we are governed by the Ulster County Health Department.

Our Medical Director, Suellen Elmendorf FNP, maintains direct communication with the Ulster County Health Department for all significant illnesses, and any health issues of concern for our District. If any cases of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus are diagnosed within our population, the Health Department will notify us and provide us with specific direction, which we will follow. The Ulster County Health Department also has information posted to their website which can be accessed here:

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/health/health-mental-health/news-and-current-issues>

The coronavirus is transmitted through sneezes, coughs and contaminated surfaces. The guidance that has been issued indicates that parents should consult with their pediatrician if they feel that their child is ill, and as always, if they are ill, children should be kept home from school. The recommended prevention at this time is the standard everyday prevention of respiratory viruses. As stated in the previous letter the preventative actions include:

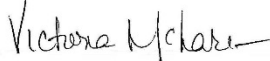
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. (Please note, students are not to use alcohol based sanitizers without a doctor's permission). Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough/sneeze with a tissue & throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

**\*\*CDC does NOT currently recommend the use of face masks or N95 respirators among the general public**

Please check our Health Services webpage for any updated guidance, and always know that our Medical Director and our School Nurses are always willing to speak to parents if there are concerns.

Sincerely,

Victoria McLaren



Superintendent of Schools

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

**Victoria McLaren**  
Superintendent of Schools

(845) 657-6383  
Fax (845) 657-8742

March 5, 2020

Dear Onteora Families,

Although we have no suspected or confirmed cases in our schools, I wanted to send an update regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). First, I'd like to reassure you that we are constantly monitoring the progress of this disease. As I'm sure you are aware, this is a rapidly changing and fluid situation.

Our Medical Director, Suellen Elmendorf FNP, and I attended a county-wide meeting yesterday with the Ulster County Department of Health (UCDOH) that included school leaders, hospital leaders, and local governmental leaders. The UCDOH is actively engaged in the monitoring of this situation and is maintaining communication with all of us.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our community, we will be immediately notified and we will work with the UCDOH and our local leaders to respond appropriately. Should the need arise, these leaders will help guide us through any decisions regarding the cancellation of events or the closing of school.

At this time, in order to limit the risks to our students, we are going to limit our field trips for the month of March to those that are close to home. We will continue to monitor and review the situation throughout the month and make further determinations as the situation develops. We do not want to preemptively cancel field trips later in the school year at this time.

I want to stress that if your child is feeling ill, please do not send them to school. I would like to request that everyone review the importance of proper hand and respiratory hygiene with their children. One of the most important things we can all do to limit the spread of COVID-19 is to wash hands with soap for at least 20 seconds:

- Before eating;
- After sneezing, coughing, or nose blowing;
- After using the restroom;
- Before handling food;
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated; and
- After using shared equipment like computers or phones

It is also important to stress proper respiratory hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow, and disposing of soiled tissues immediately after use.

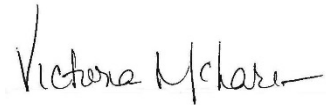
At the building level, our staff is working diligently to clean and disinfect our buildings every day and every night. We are also ensuring that our school vehicles, whether they are District owned or owned by our contractor, First Student, are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected twice per day. We have also hung signs in all bathrooms as a reminder of good hand washing practices.

We currently have three unused snow days that we are scheduled to "give back." The first give-back day would be added to spring break. I am going to recommend to the Board of Education that we do not add

this day to spring break. In the event of a confirmation of COVID-19 in our community, we will likely close school for a day or two to work with the New York State Education Department and the Ulster County Department of Health in order to determine our next steps in responding to the situation.

We will keep you updated on any new information that we receive moving forward. Please know that the health and safety of our students and our school community is of paramount importance to our entire District, and we will do everything we can to support our students and families in light of this situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria McLaren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Victoria McLaren  
Superintendent of Schools

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

**Victoria McLaren**  
Superintendent of Schools

(845) 657-6383  
Fax (845) 657-8742

March 11, 2020

Dear Onteora Families:

We are continuing to monitor the situation regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19). Although we continue to have no suspected or confirmed cases in our Onteora schools, I wanted to send an update on what is happening in our region.

The Wallkill Central School District is closing for two days, beginning tomorrow, due to an employee of a district contractor, as well as a district student, having been in close contact with an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19. The closure at Wallkill was implemented with guidance from the Ulster County Department of Health. The current plan is that they will reopen on Monday, March 16th, after disinfecting the buildings. Our local health officials will also utilize these two days to further investigate the case.

We have also become aware that the Windham-Ashland-Jewett School District has closed for one day, although there is no confirmed case of COVID-19 in the district at this time.

We continue to operate with the health and safety of our students, families, and school community as our highest priority. Out of an abundance of caution, our staff has been preparing for the possibility of a school closure. We will provide more information about our plans to support our students later this week. Any decision to close schools would be made at the recommendation of the Health Department.

Please continue to stress the importance of proper hygiene with your children. One of the most important things we can all do to limit the spread of COVID-19 is to wash hands with soap for at least 20 seconds:

- Before eating;
- After sneezing, coughing, or nose blowing;
- After using the restroom;
- Before handling food;
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated; and
- After using shared equipment like computers or phones

It is also important to stress proper respiratory hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow, and disposing of soiled tissues immediately after use.

It is recommended that in the event that schools are closed, students and staff should limit time spent among groups of other people, such as gathering at a friend's house, shopping center, or favorite restaurant. The Centers for Disease Control advises that this can help minimize the spread of illness.

Please refer to the resources listed on our Health Services webpage for additional information and updates. It can be found here:

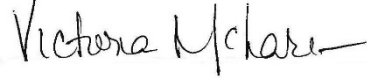
<https://www.onteorak12.ny.us/departments/health-services>

There are also resources on the Ulster County Department of Health website here:

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/coronavirus>

I will also continue to keep you informed as the situation develops. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the Ulster County Department of Health at 845-340-3150 or the NYS Coronavirus Information Hotline at 1-888-364-3065.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria McLaren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Victoria McLaren  
Superintendent of Schools



# Onteora Central School District

PO Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412

Jodi DeLucia, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

845-657-6383  
845-657-8742 Fax

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We continue to monitor the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) situation very carefully. At this time there are NO confirmed cases of Covid-19 in our school district or our community. However, due to the rapidly changing nature of this situation, we want all students and families to be prepared in the event that we need to close schools. We want our students and families to have continued access to high quality, meaningful materials should they be home for any extended period. Please do not hesitate to contact your building principal, or my office directly if your family has limited access to technology to help us better plan and provide for your child(ren).

Over the next few days, you will be seeing “emergency instructional packets and materials” being sent home with elementary and middle school students. These packets are intended for home use and should be kept at home. At the same time, many of our resources will be available online through teacher websites, Google Classroom, and other digital platforms that students are familiar with. Information for accessing these materials is being sent home with each child individually. Please work with your children to ensure that they engage with the materials that are being provided to them. It is so important that we keep our children’s minds active!

## **Grades K-3**

In our K-3 programs the materials will include a variety of grade level appropriate Reading, Writing, Word Work, Math Fluency Reinforcement, and Math Games. They are intended to reinforce skills, prevent regression, and provide students and families with meaningful instructional materials should we have an unfortunate, lengthy closure of more than just a couple of days. In addition, children will be sent home with books targeted specifically for their reading level. Please encourage your children to read, read, read! They love reading with you, and it will help prevent the loss of very important skills.

## **Grades 4-6**

Our Grades 4-6 students will be using Google Classroom as a platform for some student-centered work, as well as being sent home with emergency instructional packets and grade level reading materials. Beginning Wednesday, all students were sent home with at least one accessible book in their book bags. Teacher websites will include links to all district purchased or free online resources that can be used at home to reinforce skill development. Please encourage your students to read, read, read! It is one of the most important tasks we can ask children to engage into maintain their skills during a closure.

## **Grades 7-8**

Students in grades 7 and 8 will receive grade level skills and review packets. These materials are being specifically designed to maintain preparedness and readiness in all courses. Teachers will create packets across all content areas, and will be provided time to work collaboratively to prepare folders of work for each student. These will be sent home in the coming days. Please ask your children about them. These packets will be linked on the website for each team (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) should you have the need to access them electronically. As with all of our students, please encourage your children to engage with this material should we have a closure and to spend time reading every day!



# Onteora Central School District

PO Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412

Jodi DeLucia, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

845-657-6383  
845-657-8742 Fax

## **Grades 9-12**

In grades 9-12 each department is working closely to develop materials that will best meet the needs of their students. They will be using of various electronic platforms, including Google Classroom, Castle Learning, and digital textbooks, workbooks, and supplemental materials, particularly since every high school student has a designated Chromebook. Some courses will be providing hard copies of instructional material. Please watch for them in the coming days. Additionally, teachers are providing students with various supplies that they may need at home to complete projects (e.g., AP Art classes). The staff is taking measures to identify students who have limited access to technology or who need additional resources should we have a lengthy closure. Teachers have been, and will continue, to discuss the available resources for their specific classes with their students.

Please know that the entire faculty, staff, and administration of the Onteora School District is dedicated to maintaining the academic integrity of our programming while attending to the very important social emotional, health and wellness, and individual needs of all of our students. I want to thank each and every one of them for the time and care they are putting into the creation of these materials and the supports they are prepared to provide. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office directly, or to your building's principal.

Sincerely,  
Jodi M. DeLucia, Ph. D  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Onteora Central School District  
[jdelucia@onteora.k12.ny.us](mailto:jdelucia@onteora.k12.ny.us)  
845-657-8743 x 1023

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

**Victoria McLaren**  
Superintendent of Schools

(845) 657-6383  
Fax (845) 657-8742

March 13, 2020

Dear Onteora Families,

Please be advised that we have received a directive from Ulster County Executive, Pat Ryan, that all Ulster County Schools are required to be closed for two weeks starting Monday, March 16, 2020, to help control the current COVID-19 situation in our county. There are still no confirmed cases within our District, but I wholeheartedly endorse the action being taken by our County in order to minimize the impact to our community.

Accordingly, Onteora schools will be closed for staff and students Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020. We expect that we will be provided additional guidance from the State on how this will impact the school year in the near future. Please be aware that we will have to revisit our school calendar and this closure may impact or eliminate our Spring Break, but we do not have any definitive answers on that at this time. When we have additional information, we will provide it to you in every way possible.

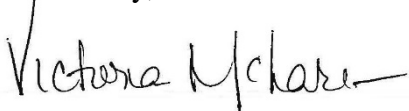
We understand that this abrupt change in plans will negatively impact many of our families in many ways. We are investigating whether we have the ability and capacity to provide food for families during this closure. If we are able to facilitate providing food, it may not begin immediately, but we will be in touch.

During the school closure, the CDC is urging parents to discourage their children from gathering socially at friends' houses, the mall, or restaurants. In addition to using a school closure as an opportunity to intensely disinfect the premises, the closure also provides time to slow down any possible spread by limiting contact with others.

As a parent, I understand that this disruption will be incredibly difficult for families; however, we must comply with the County Executive's Order. We will continue to provide you the most updated information about this very rapidly changing situation as we become aware of it. The health and safety of our community is our number one priority.

Thank you again for your patience and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Victoria McLaren  
Superintendent

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412**

(845) 657-6383  
Fax (845) 657-8742

March 17, 2020

Dear Onteora Families,

We wanted to touch base and provide some additional information as this situation progresses. Governor Cuomo has issued an Executive Order closing all schools in New York through April 1st. This is an extension of the closure that was put into place by the Ulster County Executive. At this time, Onteora will be closed from Monday, March 16th through Wednesday, April 1st. Based on the Executive Order from Governor Cuomo, we are currently anticipating that we will reopen on Thursday, April 2nd. The Governor did indicate in his communication that he will be revisiting the end date of the school closures, and we will keep you informed as we gather additional information.

Based on the timeline included in the Executive Order, we have recommended that our Board of Education amend our current school year calendar to designate Monday, March 16th through Monday, March 23rd as our Spring Break, and Tuesday, March 24th through Thursday, March 26th as our unused snow days. We expect further guidance from the NYS Education Department regarding the days of the closure that extend beyond our spring break and snow day give backs.

Our staff worked diligently to provide resources and materials for our students to have at home based on our expectation that there may be a closure declared. These resources were intended to provide students with access to resources, and were not intended as a replacement for primary instruction. As we are currently observing spring break and our unused snow days, this work is not mandatory. We will have exhausted our spring break and snow days at the end of next week, however, the materials being provided will carry our students through the anticipated April 2nd return to school. In the coming days, you will find access to additional resources, supports, and building specific communications. Please do not hesitate to reach out by email to your building principal with any questions or concerns regarding instructional materials.

We would ask that you remind your children that we are observing social distancing and while it is difficult to be away from their friend group, it is imperative that we continue to maintain our commitment to social distancing in order to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We will provide regular updates as they become available. Please check the district website often. If you have specific questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your building Principal.

As always, our primary concern is the health and safety of our Onteora community.

Sincerely,  
Victoria McLaren and Jodi DeLucia  
Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

(845) 657-6383  
Fax (845) 657-8742

March 19, 2020

Good Afternoon Onteora Families,

As information progresses, we wanted to provide additional information should our closure extend past April 2, 2020. Should we experience a prolonged closure, our primary method of instruction will occur using the Google Classroom Platform. This will include shared documents, interactive posts, and live Google Meetings. Much more information will be coming out regarding access next week.

As has been communicated, the Onteora community is currently on Spring Break and will be utilizing snow days through March 26, 2020. You have all received instructional materials whether through backpack, mail, or electronic means. These materials are not mandatory at this time; however, we encourage students to work on them to prevent regression through next Friday, March 27, 2020. After such time, instruction will move to our online Google platform.

Google classroom can be accessed with any device in your home that uses the Chrome browser; for example, laptop computers, desktop computers, iPads, and phones can all access this platform. If your child does not have such a device to use at home, or you do not have an internet connection, please follow the steps indicated below by Monday, March 23, 2020.

For all Onteora families that do not have access to an accessible electronic device at home, we currently have the capacity to loan devices. Please note that you must have wifi access for the devices to access the Google Platform. We ask that you please consider all families that do not have access to an electronic device, and only request to borrow an electronic device if absolutely necessary.

## FOR ALL K-6 STUDENTS

In order to request an electronic device, parents must email [device@onteora.k12.ny.us](mailto:device@onteora.k12.ny.us) to start the request process. You will be contacted regarding availability and distribution. Please include all of the following in your email for your request to be considered:

- Parent Name
- Parent Contact Information
- Student Name(s), Grade(s), and Building(s)
- Name of adult who will be picking up the device, if not the parent

## FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Please refer to the email that you received from Principal O'Connor regarding the procedure to request an electronic device.

**FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Your child should already have their Chromebook at home with them. For any questions or concerns, please send an email to [ohs@onteora.k12.ny.us](mailto:ohs@onteora.k12.ny.us)

Please reach out to building principals with any instructional concerns that you may have.

Onteora is dedicated to providing a continuity of instruction to our students and to supporting our families during this difficult time. Please stay safe, and encourage everyone to maintain social distancing to prevent the unnecessary spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,  
Jodi DeLucia, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

# Onteora Central School District

PO Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412

Jodi DeLucia, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

845-657-6383  
845-657-8742 Fax

March 24, 2020

Good morning, Everyone!

We have all been working hard trying to reimagine our classrooms to best support our students during this difficult time. We are so appreciative of our families: you have been understanding, supportive, and you have continuously offered support and assistance. I know that this is a difficult time. We will continue to keep you updated and support you in every way that we can. We have an amazingly strong Onteora community!

I wanted to reach out with some important instructional updates so that families can be prepared in the likely event that this closure is extended.

- Classroom instruction will be delivered through the Onteora Google Platform which includes: Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Google Meet/Hangout for video conferencing.
- Classroom instruction will begin for grades Kindergarten through 8th grade on Monday, March 30, 2020. The home packets that have been provided can be utilized to keep students engaged through Friday, March 27, 2020.
- High School students are already in communication with their teachers, and classes are officially back in session on Friday, March 27, 2020.
- Please remember that this platform is accessed best through your CHILD's Onteora GMAIL email address, so be certain that you are logged in to Google as them. If you cannot log in, please send an email to [DistrictLogins@onteora.k12.ny.us](mailto:DistrictLogins@onteora.k12.ny.us) and a support person will contact you.
- We will provide families with links to additional resources to support their children at home through our Onteora Website <https://www.onteora.k12.ny.us/>.
- Teachers will be communicating with their students (parents in our younger grades) regarding scheduling and coursework later this week.
- We will continue to monitor student progress and make adaptations as this process unfolds. Please communicate with your child's teachers and their building principal directly if you have any concerns or circumstances that they need to be aware of to ensure your child's success during this rapidly changing time.

We will be contacting each family that requested an electronic device by phone tomorrow to inform them of the schedule and procedure for device pickup. This will ONLY be for those families that have already requested a device.

We are also aware that there are students that do not have internet access, and have sent home a phone message asking any family without internet access to please call (845) 657-6383 x1023 and leave their name, child's name, school building, and contact information. Please help us get that important information to those families if you have the ability. We are working on a plan to provide materials to these families to support the continuity of instruction for our students.

We are working around the clock to make sure that we have reached all families, and that we are meeting everyone's needs. Please continue to look at the Ontario home page for updates and additional information regarding our response to COVID-19. We are also posting community resources on our webpage so that everyone is aware of all of the resources available.

We are going to take week 1 slow and steady. It is important that we start small and do this right! As we explore a new world of learning with your students, please have patience with us. We are doing our best to meet this rapidly changing need. Also, please do not feel overwhelmed or allow this process to cause you any unnecessary anxiety. We have a lot of support available and we are all learning together! Reach out for support if you need it. We will help each and every one of you, and support all of our students through this learning process.

I want to take a moment to recognize everyone who has been working around the clock to make sure that we are ready to support our community in every way. I feel incredibly lucky to be a part of the Ontario Community. Please continue to reach out. While you may not get an immediate response, please know that we are reading every email! Your words of support, ideas, brief messages, and questions have shaped, and will continue to shape, what we are doing. We are stronger together!

Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

Jodi DeLucia, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction



# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

**Victoria McLaren**  
Superintendent of Schools

(845) 657-6383  
Fax (845) 657-8742

March 27, 2020

Dear Onteora Families,

As our closure continues, we are hoping that you are all staying healthy and enjoying this time with each other. With any luck, the weather will continue to be pleasant and everyone can get outside and enjoy some sunshine. We miss your children terribly, and are hopeful that we will be back in school in the near future. While our official return to school date is April 2nd, I do anticipate that we may soon hear from Governor Cuomo that this closure will actually be longer than he originally announced.

With that in mind, as you know, our staff has been working hard to prepare for continuing to support our students in this very different environment. Beginning next week, our teachers will be making contact with their students, providing work and direction, and creating a new sense of normal as much as possible. As we embark on this next phase, please remember that this is new for all of us. We have noticed that the capacity of the internet is being stressed and your students may experience service disruptions while interacting with their classes. This is something that we unfortunately cannot control, and with so much of the country working and learning from home, it is unavoidable. Please refer to the Instruction Update dated March 24, 2020

([https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1585055417/onteorak12nyus/mhpcktidp80qsm5f7lr/InstructionLetter3-24-20\\_1.pdf](https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1585055417/onteorak12nyus/mhpcktidp80qsm5f7lr/InstructionLetter3-24-20_1.pdf)) for additional information.

We are going to begin slowly and let our students get acclimated to this way of learning. You can expect to see welcome posts, interaction posts, videos, and even a couple of live interactions using Google Meets (Hangouts). Upper grades will continue to see assignments that will need to be submitted as well. Please note that beginning Monday, all K-8 students should log in to their google classrooms using their school email address. For grades K-8 Google Classroom can be accessed from your teachers home page. Please feel free to try signing in now. If you are unable to sign in, please email [DistrictLogins@onteora.k12.ny.us](mailto:DistrictLogins@onteora.k12.ny.us).

Many of you have received devices from the district and have been getting your students signed on. As you are assisting your children to access our teacher sites and resources, please feel free to reference the following link to learn about the Google platform which can also be found on the District homepage: <https://sites.google.com/onteora.k12.ny.us/training/site/home>

We were able to distribute a lot of devices already, and we thank everyone that picked up for their patience and cooperation. The procedure seemed to work really well and we are thankful to have been able to provide the support to you. We have also heard from a number of families that were not part of our first distribution for one reason or another. We are aware that there are still families that need a device and are creating a plan for a second round of distribution early next week. More information will be shared tomorrow.

Our meal delivery program has been a great success. If you have not joined this program and feel that you need to have this support for your children, please fill out the form which can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScte8tD9qnmaXYOMY20ghM3XbTY1jDgFHzmV28waNPV7rzp7A/viewform>

Meals are being distributed on Mondays and Wednesdays. Any Onteora family can join, and once you have joined the program, you will continue to receive the meals until you notify the district that you no longer want to participate.

As always, please know that there are a lot of people that are here to support you and your children. I know that many teachers have been actively supporting their students already, but starting next week, we will begin to transition into our active learning phase. Feel free to reach out to your Principal at any time should you have instructional questions or need additional support. Please make sure that you are taking care of yourselves and reassuring your children that we are all still here for them and we can't wait to see them once we return to school.

Sincerely,  
Victoria McLaren  
Superintendent of Schools