



Hamburg Central School District

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Administration Building

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April 8, 2020

Dear Hamburg Central School District Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. The purpose of this communication is to provide important updates that we have received from New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, and from the New York State Board of Regents. I also want to pass along the details about the learning that will take place during what was originally scheduled to be Spring Recess.

Here is an update on what we've learned from the Governor and the Board of Regents over the past few days, and the actions that the Hamburg Central School District will take as a result:

Governor Andrew Cuomo, by Executive Order, has determined that all districts must carry forward with our Continuity of Service Plans through the period that was originally scheduled to be Spring Recess.

- From April 9 – April 19, we will continue our Continuity of Services plan, which includes our Continuity of Thinking Plan, family meal distribution and child care for children of health care workers.
- Our Continuity of Thinking will continue through the use of an activity calendar that our teachers will send to all students. You will notice that each day's activities emphasize the four elements of modern thinking outlined in our HCSD Vision Statement, which is "educating modern thinkers who create, care, solve and discover." We hope that these learning activities will be motivating for each learner in that they prioritize student choice and student voice, and also require students to draw unique connections between and among concepts.
- Our teachers, counselors, social workers and psychologists, along with our entire administrative staff, will be available according to the unique learning needs of your child during each of these days formerly known as Spring Recess.
- Meal distribution for families will continue as scheduled.
- Families of health care workers of first responders can see our website for low cost/no cost child care options for your children.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has, also by Executive Order, extended the period of school closure in New York State until April 29.

- The Hamburg Central School District will remain closed until such time as the Governor determines that it's safe to reopen.
- The interiors, as well as the exteriors, of all of the school district's buildings have been sanitized in preparation for the return of students and staff to school. We have also sanitized all of our playgrounds, as well as the bleachers at Howe Field.
- We continue to encourage students to avoid congregating at, or around, school district property.

On April 7, 2020, the New York State Board of Regents has cancelled Regents Exams. Accordingly, students who meet one of the requirements below are exempt from Regents Exams they were planning to take in June 2020:

- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and will have earned credit in such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year;
- The student is in grade 7, is enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and will have passed such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year;
- The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and has failed to earn credit by the end of the school year. Such student returns for summer instruction to make up the failed course credit and is subsequently granted diploma credit in August 2020; or
- The student was previously enrolled in the course of study leading to an applicable Regents Examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents Examination but was intending to take the test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score.

I was reminded yesterday of a quote offered by the late Gilda Radner (actress/original cast member of Saturday Night Live) who said, "Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next." The Bulldog Family has come through difficult and uncertain times before. While we don't know exactly "what's going to happen next", your partnership and patience is enabling this community to remain resilient through this experience, too.

I will continue to communicate with you as the circumstances require. Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Cornell
Superintendent of Schools