

# CLARENCE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 16, 2020

Dear Families,

In accordance with the Erie County Executive recommendation that people avoid large gatherings of more than 50 people, and in consideration of the declaration of multiple States of Emergency, all Erie County school districts will be closed until April 20, 2020. During the week of the April 13<sup>th</sup> we will determine if the length of closure will need to be extended.

The Clarence Central School District has a plan for continuity of instruction during the time of the school closure. We will deliver instruction both digitally, and in a paper-based format. Our expectation at this time is simply that your child does the best he or she can do with assignments and activities that are provided remotely. We expect students to complete assignments and activities and teachers will be flexible with scoring and assessing work that is done remotely. We cannot replicate regular school instruction and we all need to be comfortable with that.

We understand that this situation is stressful for many of you, including our students. We hope that our approach to instructional continuity will relieve anxiety by providing structure and maintaining a connection to learning while not burdening families with difficult to manage expectations. Listed below are some details on our plans.

The District will deep clean all buildings on Monday, March 16, 2020. Teachers will finalize grade level or course specific plans on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Teachers will communicate with students or parents via email accounts, their webpages, and/or Schoology accounts. By the end of the day on Tuesday, you should hear from your child's teacher(s) about how to access the materials for their courses. If students or parents need to pick up books, musical instruments, medications, or other personal items, the buildings will be open on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. Anyone who is unable to pick up their textbooks/material should contact the building principal in order to make other arrangements, including delivery to a student's home.

We have computers available for students who need them. Please contact the main office of the school your child attends on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> in order to request a computer. Computers will be available in the main office of your child's school and they can be picked up on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. In cases of hardship we will also deliver computers to a student's home.

Clarence High School will provide a bag breakfast and/or lunch for students consistent with your child's meal status (full pay, reduced or free). Food service will begin on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. The central distribution area for food service will be Clarence High School. Parents or students can pick up lunch for the day and breakfast for the next day at the main entrance to Clarence High School daily from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. Meals will only be provided on days when students would otherwise been in school. Bagged lunch and breakfast are available for pick-up only. No meals will be consumed on site. Arrangements can be made to deliver lunch to homes should families experience hardship. Parents can call 407-9095 to arrange for delivery.

Charter Spectrum has announced it will offer free access to broadband and WiFi services for 60 days to households with students who do not already have the services. To enroll in the service you can call 1-844-488-8395, the company says it will waive installation fees for student households.

Additional details will be finalized in the coming days. Please know that we will continue to communicate with families via our website and through text messaging and email. Clerical staff will be available in the school buildings beginning March 17<sup>th</sup> to answer phones and provide help. Thank you for your continued support during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey M. Hicks, Ed.D.

Superintendent