



March 13, 2020

Dear Falk Families,

This letter will provide updates on the proactive and preventative measures the Falk School is taking as the COVID-19 situation evolves. At this time there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our schools.

Recently, the NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH) and New York State Education Department (NYSED) issued guidance on school closures in the event there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school community. Please know that NYS schools are not expected to make decisions about closing or canceling events due to COVID-19 on their own. The School is in close contact and working in collaboration with the state and local health officials for any decisions that would require closing schools.

Based upon this guidance, the Stanley G. Falk School is cancelling all school sponsored field trips and travel due to concerns related to COVID-19. Effective immediately, the ban on school-based travel applies to students and to staff, and will continue until further notice.

Additionally, effective immediately and until further notice, the School is suspending all school-sponsored events that include more than 50 people. These includes school-sponsored events that take place on or off our school grounds.

Due to recent school closings in other states, it is with an abundance of caution that we are sending educational materials home with students today. This precautionary measure is being taken so that students will have continued learning opportunities in the event that we are directed to close schools. Please note: As of this time, schools have NOT been directed to close. In the event that we are directed to close schools, we will follow our standard procedure which includes an automated call and digital alerts.

If School is required to be closed for an extended period of time, the following plan is to provide continuity of instruction. Please understand that this instructional plan for students is precautionary.

•For all K-6 students: Teachers will send home packets of work for students. Work provided should be used if school is closed for an extended period of time to reinforce skills and content previously taught. Again, this work is only being sent home as a precautionary measure in the event school is closed for an extended period. We ask that you store these packets in a safe place and set aside until further notice.

•For all students in grades 7-12: Teachers will use Google Classroom to facilitate online learning. Professional development is being offered to teachers to assist them so assignments can be posted daily if we are closed for an extended period of time.

Plan for Distributing Chromebook Devices to Students in 7-12:

In an abundance of caution and preparedness, Chromebook devices will be sent home with students EVERYDAY until further notice. Students must return the Chromebooks and chargers to school each day to use daily in classrooms.

- Stanley G. Falk students in grades 7-12 will be provided a Chromebook and charger to use Google Classroom to continue online learning at home.
- Students will log into their Chromebooks, email and Google Classroom using the same email address and password they use while at school.
- Students should continue to create and save documents in their Google Drive.
- Expectations are that students treat the devices at home as if they were in their classroom.
- Devices should not be left unsupervised at home, loaned to other individuals, and must be kept away from food and beverages.
- Please call your building principal with any questions.

Minimize The Spread of All Respiratory Illnesses

There are a number of steps that students, staff and community members can take to minimize the spread of all respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, according to the state Department of Health:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Parents are asked to keep children home who exhibit cold and flu-like symptoms.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Review hand-washing tips. Wash hands often with anti-bacterial soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

The circumstances around this looming public health challenge seem to change rapidly. The School will act according to those circumstances, with the guidance of public health, local and state officials, in an effort to assure the safety of everyone who learns, works and visits in our schools. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dawn F. Mirand
Superintendent