

COOPERSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COVID-19 CLOSURE INFORMATION

UPDATE: MARCH 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you're well and doing ok under the circumstances in a very stressful time. You know, the toughest times call for the greatest reserve of calm, understanding and patience we have in us – I hope that this communication will help ease a few of your concerns regarding school and let you know that we are actively learning and planning to make the best of the recent school closing announcement due to COVID-19.

At this time, there have been no announcements of COVID-19 cases that have originated in Otsego County. Otsego County and Department of Health officials have advised our decisions, and I expect that due to the most recent State of Emergency for Otsego County that has been issued CCS <https://www.allotsego.com/bliss-declares-emergency-in-otsego-county/>, like all other school districts in Otsego County, will likely be extending school closure through the middle of April. Please stay tuned for further announcements.

We should be thankful to everyone, especially our amazing staff and faculty, leadership team and Board of Education for responding to our students' needs first. CCS is a very special place for how much love, concern, and professionalism is directed toward our students, parents, and the community. There are some of our efforts on behalf of our students:

Meal Program

Modified, but complete school breakfast and lunch meals will be available to students beginning Monday, March 16. All students may continue to participate in the school meal program which will be handled through the students' regular meal accounts. All we ask is for a parent, guardian, or caregiver call 547-2820 to request meals.

Meal pickup will be available at the Junior-Senior High School on Monday, March 16, Tuesday, March 17, and Wednesday, March 18 between the hours of 11am-1pm and 5-7pm each of those days. Meals will be prepared to include breakfast and lunch. Following the week of March 16, meals will be provided only on Monday and Wednesday, but they will include breakfast and lunch for all five days of the week. The hours and location of pick-up will remain the same.

For the few families that will need us to deliver the meals – it will be our pleasure to do so. Please let us know by calling 547-2820. You may speak directly to one of our awesome kitchen staff or leave a message.

Instructional Program

Learning packets were provided to all students, 7-12, at the Junior-Senior High School on Friday, March 13. Elementary learning packets will be provided for students on Monday, March 16.

Please note the following important pickup information:

- Grade 7-12 students who did not receive learning packets may pick them up from the JSHS between the hours of 11am-1pm and again 5-7pm on Monday, March 16.
- Grade K-6 learning packets are available to pick up from the Elementary School foyer between the hours of 11am-1pm and again 5-7pm on Monday, March 16. There will be no grading of this work; more development and information will follow in the coming weeks. There will be information and a letter in each of the learning packets you'll receive.

We will find a way to deliver learning packets for students if parents can contact their respective school to inquire. Please keep in mind that these learning packets were carefully collected by our dedicated faculty for each grade level and each discipline. The “work” in the learning packets will not be graded, but will be collected and reviewed by faculty upon return to school.

Mrs. Mecciarriello and Mrs. Butler are working with our technology department and faculty to design ongoing instruction in the event our schools are closed for a longer period of time. While there is no substitute for instruction, the learning packets were designed thoughtfully to reinforce learning. To continue opportunities to learn during our closure, we may use more innovative ways to supply instruction in the coming weeks.

We realize that instruction and school opportunities need to be equitable. Any expectations need to be inclusive and accessible to all our students, including students who learn differently and who require special accommodations.

Special Education

The most critical information at this time is to let you know that we are planning to use technology to help us continue scheduled and yet-to-be-scheduled CSE and 504 Meetings. There are lots of details to work out, but our goal will be to hold meetings remotely and to include parents in the process. Personal phone contacts will be made through Mr. Kevin Kelly's office, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, to arrange for meetings once we are ready to do so.

Parent Resources

The web and social media offer many, many resources for parents, but it can be a confusing list! Elementary learning packets include some of the wonderful technology tools that parents and students can access to promote learning. We will be working to get good communication to parents in the next few days and weeks that will help to keep learning thriving with the help of faculty, staff, and our wonderful PTA.

Designated email to answer your questions

I am working with our technology department so that you can access email addresses for specific questions you might have. Once this system is in place, we will provide you with the details for how to access it.

Other information to note:

- Board meeting, March 18 to take place as scheduled, but attendance may be limited
- Kindergarten Registration Postponed

- Elementary Report Cards may be issued at a different time. Mrs. Meccariello will keep you informed.

All events and activities, including athletics and extra-curricular activities are cancelled until further notice. The Section III Member Organization said, in a letter dated March 15, 2020, that all interscholastic athletic events will be suspended and are tentatively scheduled to begin April 14.

- We will share information about testing and assessment for 3-8 ELA and Math State Tests and Regents when we have that information

I wanted to encourage you to register your most updated contact information with us. Please call your child's school with that information – 547-9976 (ES); 547-8181 (JSHS). We want to keep you informed along the way. Please continue to access our website at www.cooperstowncs.org, Facebook and Twitter for continual updates.

We wish you great health every day. We wish you great happiness in every way. We miss our students and seeing you, but look forward to continued communication with you all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Crankshaw