



SOUTH SENECA

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Upon recommendation of the Seneca County Health Department, and in compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders, South Seneca will join the other public school districts in the county and close regular operations as of Tuesday March 17. **Closure, for now, extends through Friday May 15.**

Here is the summary as of **Thursday, April 30, 2020**
NEXT PLANNED UPDATE—MONDAY, MAY 4

Governor Cuomo has extended our current planned closure another two weeks:

- On Thursday, April 16, the Governor extended 'NY on Pause,' and ordered that all schools must stay closed through May 15. The 180-day waiver period for state aid includes these new dates.
- It is still possible that the closure period could be extended even further, so we will continue to monitor the regular updates from Albany. **We have been told that a new decision about schools will be announced at the Governor's daily press conference on Friday, May 1.**

Our track was briefly closed on Wednesday morning, but that was only temporary. Walkers and runners may continue to use the track, but we ask PLEASE that anyone on the track follow proper social distancing guidelines from the Seneca County Health Department.

- Unfortunately, though, we do need to close the playgrounds, and tennis and basketball courts (any of our spaces where specific pieces of equipment are shared). We will open these areas again when it's safe to do so.

The Board of Regents, at their April meeting, announced that June Regents Exams will be cancelled this year. Today, April 30, they also announced that August Regents Exams are cancelled:

- Find the link to the State Education Department's guidance on this decision on our main Coronavirus Update page. Here is an excerpt from the full guidance:

Modifications apply to all students enrolled in grades 7-12 during the 2019-20 school year who were intending to participate in one or more of the June 2020 Regents Examinations.

Students who, during the June 2020 examination period would have taken one or more Regents examinations, will be exempted from passing the assessments in order to be issued a diploma. To qualify for the exemption, students must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- 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; or
- 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; or

- 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 and earn the 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 intended to take the test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score.

Plans during closure:

- Please continue to look for communications from teachers as we provide home-based continuity of learning
- The goal is to maintain one-to-one connection of students to school adults, no matter how long this closure period lasts
- High School students are the only students in the New York State system who are in credit-bearing courses, so they will be asked to work on assignments that may be graded
- **We will not be issuing report cards as planned in April this year. For PK-8 students in non-credit bearing classes, teachers will be providing short narrative reports about academic progress during closure. Near May 1, we will issue 'comment only' report cards for high school students. Some time later in the school year, all students in credit bearing classes will have grades reported for those classes, so we can issue credits locally. Look for more information on that in the month of May.**
- For Elementary and Middle School students, the objective is preserve the continuity of learning as much as possible, and materials and resources are designed to engage and to deliver course content
- Our first priority is to know everyone is tending to their well-being and safety. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the district if you have particular needs, or if your situation has changed
- Academically, we hope each of our students is able to find materials to stay engaged in meaningful learning, each day of our school year. We don't want this to be a burden—we encourage taking breaks, spacing the work out, and communicating to us when it feels like too much
- **All families should become familiar with our plans to make free meals available (see below).**
- Some families are concerned about mental health supports, and we share that concern. We will be doing everything in our power to make plans to support students and families during the closure period, and we will work with anxious families to establish a plan.
- Our Special Education department is working hard to account for essential services. We must accept that there will be challenges ahead, and we are committed to doing what is in our power to maintain essential services.
- Goal will ultimately be to minimize days of closure, subject to directives from Health Department and State Education Department

Please follow all NY Pause directives to keep everyone safe:

- It is vital to understand the objective is for families to **stay home as much as possible and to avoid public gatherings of any size** unless necessary.
- If you need to be out in public and interacting with others, wear a mask.
- Wash hands regularly and thoroughly
- Avoid those who are sick
- Avoid covering coughs and sneezes with hands

Plan for access to meals during an extended closure:

- Preparation of bagged food in Ovid building

- **We are doing individual home delivery of all meals, instead of doing pickup locations in the district. A driver will deliver meals to your door if you need them. Delivery times will be Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, mostly between 11am and 1pm. Please secure your animals during meal delivery times.**

Each day of delivery, we will provide enough meals to last until the next delivery date.

- In addition to our meal distribution, we will share other food distribution programs we know are happening. Here is information from the Ovid Federated Church:

Ovid Food Pantry

Open every Monday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Bring bags/boxes

Open every other Thursday from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Next date is May 4. Bring bags/boxes

Ovid Food Truck

Every other Tuesday afternoon. Next date is May 12.

The first time we ran this food truck from the school parking lot in Ovid, it was a big success, and we'll continue to do it that way.

For other food emergencies:

Call the Ovid Federated Church

9 a.m.-1 p.m. M-F 607-869-2794

after hours call Nancy Canniff 607-351-0720

By Executive Order, all school budget votes and board member elections have been postponed until at least June 1, so there will be no vote in the community on May 19 as previously scheduled.

Adjusted policies in effect as of Monday, March 16:

- Limited use of building for non-essential staff
- No use of building by outside groups until further notice
- No Extended Day program until further notice
- The spring athletics season is suspended