This letter is dedicated to Mrs. Kelly Earley, 2nd grade teacher at Geneva Platt R. Spencer. Mrs. Earley passed away on March 17, 2020. She loved teaching and always did by her teaching, enthusiasm, energy and love. what she could to reach every student. She will be missed!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family, friends, colleagues and all of the students that were impacted

Dear Geneva Students

I am writing this letter as part of my monthly page in the Gazette newspaper. Each month, I have the opportunity to share some of the great things that are happening in the Geneva Schools or provide information that is important to the families and citizens in our district and community. However, this month, I decided to write to YOU - the students! While I don't know all of you, it has been a pleasure to get to know so many of you, and when you recognize me ... you are often offering your suggestions like "Hey! It's snowing and it is bad out...are you going to cancel school?" I smile and say ... "We will see how it is early in the morning!"

Well, the roads are clear, the sun is shining and we have all had to adjust to a new norm. Daily changes, new rules, new procedures, limitations in what we can do and new terminology - "social distancing" and "flatten the curve." So many new things to get used to and find ways that we can adjust. We have been asked to be flexible, kind, supportive and understanding as we face this unprecedented situation. I can only imagine the range of feelings and emotions that you, as students, are going through at these times. With all of that said, I have had many thoughts swirl through my mind and I wanted to take a moment to share a few of them with you.

To the Austinburg, Cork and Geneva Platt R. Spencer Students:

I am sure you are missing your teachers and classmates. Trust me, they are missing you too! You have all worked so hard to build a classroom family always showing and sharing your SOAR goals and expectations. It is wonderful seeing so many of you earn recognition through our PBIS model. Your positive behavior makes learning better for everyone. I hope you are taking time to learn new things and share the things you have already learned with your family. I hope you are finding great books to read - they can take you ANYWHERE! I hope you are going outside when you can (keeping your distance) and enjoying the signs of a new Spring. Keep working hard, take some time to relax and do your best. I am proud of each and every one of you!

To the Geneva Middle School Students:

When we hear the words "social distancing" we know we can't be together physically, but please continue to be "social." This is such a big part of the middle school experience. Please continue to reach out to your friends. Be creative ... find ways to let them know you are thinking of them. A tiny act of kindness and reaching out can make an impact on a friend's day more than you may ever know. Take this time to reinforce some of the new skills you have learned. Many of you have been writing newspaper articles, creative stories or completing journals in school. This is a great time to expand what you were doing or come up with some new ideas and thoughts. Write about your feelings, a story about a nation facing a pandemic or articles that maybe could be submitted for the school

newspaper or our local papers. You may even want to use your artistic talents to illustrate your completed work. Have fun, be creative and continue to use your

To the Geneva High School Students:

As a high school student, when you return from Spring Break, you are rounding the comer to finish out the school year. Moving one step closer to your senior year or graduation. It is an exciting time but it can be filled with mixed emotions. I hope that excitement still exists as you continue to work with your teachers on your online lessons. It's always wonderful to see so many of you actively involved in the classes you are taking, activities you join and the events you attend. I am always impressed by the enthusiasm, energy and kindness that is exhibited by GHS students. There is never a time in which I visit and walk through the halls when I don't receive a smile, a hello or some other welcoming conversation. All of you know what to do to continue your academic path despite the situation we are facing. Use your time wisely to enrich your life and the lives of others - stay mentally strong and continue to be a role model for your younger siblings, friends and family members.

To the Geneva High School Seniors:

This was your year and it still IS! Despite missing time at school, you have made your impact on Geneva Schools like no other class. You went through this crisis during your senior year and you will come out on the other side stronger - with memories of your senior year that will last a lifetime. This will be part of history and you are experiencing it during this monumental step in your academic career. It is "your" year. Nothing can take the memories you have made over the years away from you. You have inspired me through your academic dedication, athletic achievements, musical and theatrical talents - all while being positive and kind individuals that made Geneva Schools and the community around them better! Use this time to think about your next steps. I am filled with joy and optimism for all of you and I know you will have incredible futures. Take this time to share the memories you have had during your years. Give a shout out to a special friend, coach, parent or teacher. We all need a little encouragement during these days ... you will be surprised at the joy you can bring!

I say all of this with heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of our students for what you do to make our schools and district proud! I am thinking of you and wishing you all the best during this time of uncertainty. Continue to be strong, stay positive and help where you can! We will get through this together. Stay healthy ... stay well ... and as always, do it with Geneva and Eagle Pride.

m. GZ Éric M. Kujala, Superintendent

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