

March 19, 2020

Dear Warrior Tribe:

It was just one week ago that our announcement to close school indefinitely was announced. It is hard to believe that in just seven days our world has gone from traditional classroom instruction to the most virtual learning platform possible in our remote community. Our teachers have immersed themselves in a teaching environment that would, under normal circumstances, take years of professional development, strategy, and vision. The sudden change of course has forced our teachers to learn new software systems and instructional modalities without any formal training. To watch their virtual collaboration on Microsoft Teams, supporting one another during this transition, has been heartwarming.

Some of my colleagues from other districts have expressed concern about proper student dress and other etiquette related issues with respect to this virtual learning environment. I have asked principals to have our teachers monitor our students and communicate with them or parents directly if they experience any troubles in this regard. I'm confident that our students know what is appropriate.

Our innovative librarians have shared numerous sites to online books and audiobooks with our instructional staff. If you are looking for reading material for your children, please reach out to Ms. Wise or Mrs. Jacobs-Broedel.

We continue to realize the access and connectivity issues among many of our students. These concerns have been highlighted in our live Thought Exchange ([which you can access here](#)) as the most pressing concerns. As I noted in last evening's update, we have a shipment of hundreds of computers coming. We don't know, however, when they will arrive. Once we have them, we will deploy them to students as fast as we can.

In the interim, I have reached out to every district in our BOCES region and others close by asking for a loan of any leftover devices they may have. My fingers are crossed that our neighbors will be able to pull through for us.

We are also moving forward with plans to secure hotspots for those outside a high-speed internet coverage area. A new survey has been developed in an effort to gather all of our students' technology needs. Every household containing Morrisville-Eaton students is asked to complete this survey. It can be found by clicking [here](#), or going to www.m-ecs.org and clicking on the "Technology Access Survey" link.

Additionally, we received guidance on childcare services available during this pandemic. Childcare placement will be available to essential employees who work in healthcare, are first responders, who work in grocery stores, in transportation, some construction fields, certain non-profit agencies and in

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food or supply distribution fields. If you believe you may qualify, please call the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison Child Care Resource Center at 315-223-7850 extension 222 or e-mail: earlycareandlearning@cornell.edu. I had a conversation with the director of the program, offering our space and some personnel if needed, to provide a local option for this service. The program director will decide, however, where the care will be housed based on overall need.

Lastly, we have run into some obstacles with the home delivery of meals and mail. Most concerning have been the reports of dogs being aggressive toward our providers. Please secure your animals when you have scheduled deliveries from the school. An additional request is that all families put a cooler by the door where these meals are being dropped off. This will protect your meals from the elements as well as prevent contact between our staff and the residents. I am happy to report that we will be able to provide meals to our families during the scheduled April break – evidence that our food service providers and bus drivers are altruistic.

The weekend is here, and our hardworking team of educators need to take a break from their long days of trying to figure out how to adapt to this new world. Equally, our students need a break from this new way of learning. I'm sure our parents would like to have the opportunity to step away from being the "classroom aide" for a couple days too. Take some time to put the devices away, forget about the C-Virus Crisis, and just play as a family. We will get back to all of this again on Monday.

Go Warriors!

In good health,



Gregory Molloy

