



GILBERTSVILLE-MT. UPTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

Office of the Superintendent

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

I know that all of us are feeling the stress of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) coming into the United States, New York State, and our area. I want you to know that I am staying on top of all the information that is being distributed to school districts, and have had minute by minute communications with our local Departments of Health and the State Education Department. I will make all my decisions based on what is safest for our students and their families.

I need your help in taking some very critical steps as a community to keep our children and families as safe as possible. Consistently we are hearing the message and we cannot downplay the following:

- The virus is predominately spread between people who are in close contact, so we all need to be vigilant with proper hygiene.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, scrubbing with soap.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with the crook of your arm.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid hand shaking.

Please teach your children these crucial hygiene practices and remember one of the best things you can do to help prevent the spread of viruses in our community is to stay home and keep your children home if any family member is exhibiting signs of illness. Concerns of attendance and missed course work should not be your primary concern but the health of your family should be the priority. We will work out the other pieces along the way.

In an abundance of caution, below is a list of some things we are doing here at school to minimize the spread of infection, including:

- Encouraging students to bring refillable water bottles, as we are shutting off the mouth piece portions of our water fountains. We will provide disposable cups for those that don't have a bottle to fill.
- We are using a school approved disinfecting protocol to clean all surfaces each evening.

Annette D. Hammond
Superintendent

Jarrin Hayen
District Clerk
Administrative Assistant
to the Superintendent

Heather Wilcox
PK-12 Principal

Kimberly Degear
Director of
Special Education

Dorothy Iannello
District Treasurer

Joe Zaczek
Transportation Supervisor

Alan Digsby
Buildings and Grounds
Supervisor

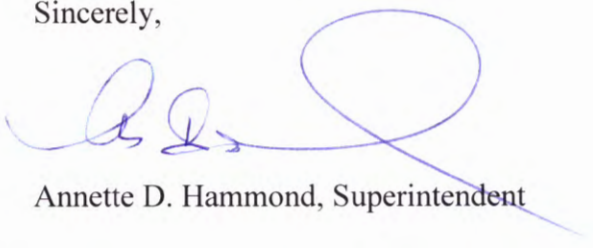
Susan Sebeck
Food Service Manager

Eric Voorhees
Technology Director
CIO

- We are going to now have students dismiss from the buses in the morning and head directly to their classrooms where they can wash their hands before eating breakfast.
- I have cancelled all fieldtrips until further notice.
- Teachers are planning for ways to deliver instruction to students if our school were to be closed.

Today, as I write this letter, there are no confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in Chenango or Otsego County. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Annette D. Hammond', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Annette D. Hammond, Superintendent