



WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Matthew J. Bystrak
Superintendent of Schools

Carmelina Persico
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Operations

April 21, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Last week, we learned that the period of school closure has been further extended to May 15th. In a previous communication to you, we shared that the longer our schools remained closed, the greater the need to shift to new learning. As our return date continues to be a moving target, the time has come for us to make this transition. As a school district, we need to ensure we are preparing our students to be able to make progress towards the standards that they would need to know and understand by the end of the school year as aligned to their specific grade level and content areas. We must make certain that our students are exposed to the practices, concepts, topics, and skills that they would normally be exposed to during this final trimester and/or marking period of the school year, to the greatest extent possible.

As such, we have over the last several weeks, established routines and methods of consistent communication with you, our students and families. We have equipped our students with materials, assignments, and technology to ensure they are able to participate and continue on with their learning. We believe we are prepared to make this transition, yet recognize that there is no true replacement for that of a teacher in a classroom with his/her students. We know that right now, we need a flexible system for teaching and learning. We need our students to be engaged with their teachers as they work together to make sure they are achieving their learning goals. Part of this engagement requires that we provide valuable feedback to our students that focus on the learning process and how to make gains in their learning.

We know that at this time, the best way to provide feedback that focuses on the learning process is the utilization of a rubric that speaks to a student's progression. Therefore, as we continue on in the third trimester/fourth marking period, students will be assessed on the basis of three categories: ***Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, and Approaching Expectations***. These categories provide a holistic approach to assessing students' engagement with learning. Please know that you can also reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher(s) at any time should you have questions regarding their academic progress or standing in a given class.

As parents/guardians, you can expect a formal update in Power School on May 1st and May 15th. Moreover, teachers will also be in regular communication with their students to provide feedback along the way and in between these two timeframes. We will need your support and encouragement of your child(ren) throughout these weeks as well, as you are our most valuable partners in their education and ensuring their success.

As an aside for the parents of Secondary Students Only: (*Middle School Eighth Grade Accelerated Earth Science and Algebra & High School students*) We have posted to our website a helpful document that highlights information provided from the New York State Education Department on Regents Exams, Graduation Requirements, and Course Credit to help answer any questions you may have as a result of the cancellation of Regents exams. Should you need any assistance in interpreting any of the provided information, please feel free to contact your child(ren)'s school counselor or principal.

We understand that this time in our current history is like no other any of us have ever faced before. Know that, we too are parents, and we can relate to what you are going through right now on the home front. Your child(ren) is/are our main priority. We want them to be successful, happy, and healthy, now and always. We are only an email or phone call away please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or need assistance.

In solidarity,

Matthew J. Bystrak
Superintendent of Schools

Carmelina Persico
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Operations

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Principal, East Senior HS

John Brinker
Principal, West Senior HS

Dr. Sharon Loughran
Principal, East Middle School

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Kim McCartan
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