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CHAMPLAIN, NEW YORK 12919-4833

March 13, 2020

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students, and Community:

The new coronavirus pandemic is likely to be a long event that will continue to cause disruptions around the nation's schools for months to come. After discussing the virus with the Clinton and Essex County Health Departments yesterday, representatives made it clear that there were no confirmed cases in our counties. The Clinton Country Health Department has the authority to close our schools for at least 24 hours should they learn of any confirmed cases or other potential concerns that place our community at risk.

As always, the health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We understand that we all have questions and concerns regarding the coronavirus also known as COVID-19. We continue to carefully monitor the situation and will follow all guidance from our local, state, and federal health agencies. The district will continue to emphasize how important it is to be cautious and vigilant.

As previously stated, we are in close communication with agencies and other area school districts. We have positive networking relationships with a common interest in slowing down the virus so we can get back to a regular routine. We know the impact school closures will have on our students, staff members, families, and community. Closing school is never an easy decision and one we take seriously especially because we understand how it causes further disruptions to schedules at home. We do not anticipate closing schools unless directed by our local health department or State of New York. We ask that you begin having conversations at home regarding child care. Teachers and administrators around the country are organizing and planning schoolwork so learning can continue should we face that day. We can't pretend that it may not happen to our community.

We will be hosting assemblies to continue focusing on preventative measures to help combat the spread of the virus. Please continue to encourage your child to wash their hands with soap vigorously and frequently, and if they are not feeling well, please keep them home and contact the school office. As a school district, we increased the frequency in sanitizing high traffic areas and surfaces as well as installing additional hand sanitizing stations.

These are difficult steps to take. We continue to learn new information daily and even hourly. Strong relationships and continuous, open communication with our community is essential. I will follow up on new developments by robo call in the next few days. Today, we learned that Governor Cuomo announced during a press conference that schools will not face sanctions should we not reach the 180 day regulation. Our end date of June 26, 2020 will remain as scheduled.

Thank you for partnering with us as we address the health and safety of our students, school, and community. We will continue remembering a valuable lesson that as a community we make sacrifices to take care of each other. **Together we make a difference!** 

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Superintendent of Schools