



UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I am writing on behalf of the Utica City School District to update you on the school closures due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic. First, I hope that you and your loved ones are safe during this very challenging time. We can only imagine the difficulties everyone is facing and we wish you all of the best as we work through this together.

As you may know, on Friday, March 27, 2020, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo extended the closure of all schools in the state until April 15, 2020. In order to promote equity for our students who do not have access to technology and the internet, your school principal has worked with your child's teacher(s) to provide lessons and assignments covering the period to April 30, 2020 in the event that Governor Cuomo extends the school closure. I want to assure you that no student will be penalized because they do not have access to a computer and internet.

I also need to let parents know that on the afternoon of Monday, March 30, 2020, Governor Cuomo sent a communication to all school districts mandating that schools provide students with remote learning activities during Spring Break in his order, which states:

"Districts must continue to provide remote instruction for students, meals for students, and child care for essential workers every weekday between April 1, 2020 and April 14, 2020, even if the district is scheduled to be on spring break during that time."

This is a change to what school districts were told on Friday, March 27th in a communication from Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES for distribution to staff and students of the component school districts that stated instruction would not occur during Spring Break. Therefore, students will continue to work on their assignments every weekday during Spring Break.

In closing I want to thank parents and students for their understanding during this ever-changing situation that is certainly new to all of us. Your child's principal is available to help you with any questions or concerns you may have. You can reach the principal by calling the number to the school. Principals have the ability to answer and assist you even when working from home.

Sincerely,

STEVEN A. FALCHI

Administrative Director of Curriculum and Instruction K-12