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## Whitesboro Central School District

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March 24, 2020

Dear Whitesboro Students,

First, I hope you are all well and are adjusting to the new and unique ways we are living our daily lives. Having to adapt to this situation has been challenging I'm sure. While we are doing our best to maintain student learning and engagement, we realize we cannot replicate what you experience in school on a daily basis.

I'm sure you have many questions ranging from, "Are we going to be able to return on April 14?" to "Are we still going to be able to have our planned spring activities such as concerts, field trips, and sports?" While we don't have all the answers yet, based on current guidance, our plan is to be back in school on April 14. We will do our best to preserve as much of what we have planned as possible.

Elementary students, I am sure you have been doing your best to stay busy and complete the work sent home by your teachers. It may seem like a lot, but we are only expecting you to do what you can. Please don't be worried about finishing it all, just work hard and do your best. Your teachers are working now on preparing lessons for you to begin the week of Monday, March 30. If you haven't finished the other work by then, that's okay. You should begin working on the new material. Don't worry about what you weren't able to finish. You can always do that later, but only if there is time after you finish the new work. Your teachers miss you very much and are doing their best to stay in contact with you. We are working on other ways they can do this even more. To those of you who had class pets, don't worry, your teachers took them home! You might be wondering about class field trips and other special activities that are planned for this spring. We are hoping to be back to school soon and plan to hold as many as possible! You should also know that the state tests for grades 3-8 will not be given this year.

Middle and high school students, I hope you're adjusting to completing your schoolwork at home. I'm sure this is much more challenging being away from your teachers, classmates, and friends. We are improving our ability to connect students and teachers using online tools like Google Classroom. You will hear more on these from your teachers if you haven't already. We understand the importance of maintaining that connection and we are doing our best to find ways to increase our ability to do so. I'm sure you are also wondering about spring events such as concerts, sports, field trips, and other planned activities. Our hope is to maintain as many as possible even if we have to make adjustments to dates. One date that has been set is the first day for spring sports. All spring sports are scheduled to begin on April 14. As mentioned previously, state tests for grades 3-8 will not be given this year. For those of you in 8<sup>th</sup> grade who will be taking the Algebra and/or Living Environment Regents exams, those are still scheduled to be administered at this time, along with World Language Checkpoint Exams.

### Our Mission

*To inspire, cultivate, and empower all learners to maximize their potential.*

For our high school students, I'm sure you are wondering about dual-credit, SUPA, and AP courses as well as Regents exams. I can assure you that the high school administration is working diligently to both get answers to your questions and maintain your connectedness to the coursework. As of now, all Regents exams are scheduled to be administered. You may be wondering about spring activities like the junior prom, senior ball, and even graduation. Our planned return date is April 14. As long as that happens, what we have planned will most likely be held. There is the possibility of that return date being extended. If it is, much will depend on the circumstances at the time. I'm sure you're likely already aware of social gathering restrictions that are in place which might impact our ability to hold events. Depending on the restrictions in place at the time, it may not be possible to hold them as planned. We will also need to see if the venues will be open and ready. While we will try and find alternate ways to have them, whether or not that will be possible is uncertain. What is certain is our commitment to the wellness of our students and staff.

With regard to graduation, we have reserved two dates in the summer in the event we are unable to hold it in June. We have July 25 and August 8 reserved at the Adirondack Bank Center.

Like everyone, we seem to have more questions than answers at this point. Be assured we are doing our best to get these questions answered. I urge you not to listen to any speculation and rumors you may be hearing. As soon as we know more, we will communicate with you as quickly as possible. Please understand that changing circumstances may change the answers to those questions. Be patient and know we will keep you informed. Please visit our website frequently for updates and new information.

My thanks to you for doing your part to adjust to our new normal. Continue working hard, stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Brian K. Bellair**  
Superintendent

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