

North Syracuse Central School District

"BRIGHTER TOGETHER"

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Dear K-4 Parents/Guardians,

The past several weeks have been a challenge for us all. Our lives have been turned upside down and we all struggle to adjust to the many changes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. At the elementary level, we have now fully transitioned to online learning as defined by the New York State Education Department. This rapid change from "face to face" in person learning, to virtual learning, has come with many challenges and we have all had to learn new technology and adapt how we teach and learn while at home. Our District recently administered a parent survey and this data will help us adjust our approach in order to find a good balance for students, families and our school community. We will continue to communicate information through emails, text blasts, websites and social media. In an effort to keep everyone informed, below is some new information regarding grading, report cards and technology.

Grading and Report Cards:

Moving forward, we are hoping to return to school in May but, as we all know, the school closures could go longer. The guidelines below are subject to change based on when/if we return to school:

- **Trimester 2 Report Card Grades:** will be available at midnight on April 24th. Grades are based on the original Trimester 2 dates of 12/7/19-3/20/20.
- **Trimester 3 Report Card Grades:** will be reserved for the comments section of the report card only and will be in narrative form. Comments will reflect what was covered during trimester 3 as well as overall student progress. While we encourage all of our students to fully engage during the time of the school closure, students will not be penalized for missing assignments during the Trimester 3 school closure.
- **K-4 instruction** will focus on the core areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. Instruction will focus on our ELA and Math Essential Standards which target the foundational "essential" skills and learning.
 - Reduced instruction will continue in Special Areas (Art, Music, Library and Physical Education) as well as Social Studies and Science.
- **Student Assessment:** Teachers will continue to assess students using online learning platforms, interactive lessons and conferencing platforms. Students will not be penalized for missing assignments or assessments during the Trimester 3 school closure.

Technology:

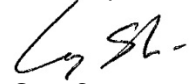
At this time the District has distributed more than 3,100 Chromebooks and the vast majority of students continue to be engaged in the learning process. Please remember that Chromebooks are the property of the North Syracuse Central School District and are to be used only for educational purposes. Students should be using these

Chromebooks as a tool to connect with their teachers and further their education. We are asking parents to actively monitor students' use of school technology and follow these guidelines:

- Set structured, regular times for students to engage in distance learning activities
- Consider appropriate locations for video conferencing and completing assignments
- Remind students that log-in credentials should never be shared
- Communicate with your child's teacher if there are questions or concerns

In closing, I'd like to end on a positive note. Our community has truly come together over the past month. We have all made sacrifices, supported our neighbors and friends, rallied to provide resources for those less fortunate and have remained a strong united community. In the weeks ahead, we will all face many hurdles. We're all in this together. Stay strong, stay healthy and stay home so that we can flatten this curve and all get back to our regular lives and routines. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to reach out to your teachers, principals and myself. Stay well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Stone".

Greg Stone

Director of Elementary Education