



Sachem Central School District

Kenneth E. Graham, Superintendent of Schools | kgraham@sachem.edu

March 11, 2020

Dear Sachem Parents/Guardians & Families,

The Sachem Central School District has been made aware of positive cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) within the Sachem community. We have been in contact with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, which has advised us that these individuals do not have any direct connection to our students or staff. Therefore, following the guidance of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services and the New York State Department of Health, there is no need to cancel school or school-related events at this time.

At this time, our primary concern is for the health and safety of our students, staff and community. As mentioned in my last letter, our schools have begun intensifying cleaning practices throughout our buildings and will follow all directions provided by public health officials to prevent and limit the spread of the virus.

Furthermore, to limit exposure to our students and staff the district will be canceling all field trips and after-school activities that begin after 5 p.m. through Friday, March 13. This will allow extra time for our buildings and grounds crew to clean the buildings. If you have any questions regarding an event, please contact your child's principal. Any extension of this policy or changes will be communicated to you.

According to public health officials, the way COVID-19 is spread is very similar to the flu and common colds. The symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, have also been reported.

Any individual who needs medical care should call their physician's office to report their illnesses prior to seeking care at a clinic, physician's office or hospital. Parents of students or staff members exhibiting symptoms are asked to call the New York State Coronavirus Hotline: 1-888-364-3065.

We remain committed to staying vigilant regarding any developments of COVID-19 and will take the appropriate steps necessary to protect the health of all of our students, staff and school community. For the most accurate and timely information on the virus, please visit the NYS Department of Health or the CDC website.

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Additionally, I strongly suggest that families review and discuss contingency plans for their child(ren) should the district be required to close schools in the future.

As always, we work closely with public health officials and follow their expert recommendations to best ensure the safety of everyone in our school community. We will keep you updated as this situation evolves.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Graham, Superintendent of Schools

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