



ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2910 Route 9
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Mr. Jason D. Thomson
Superintendent

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March 13, 2020

Good afternoon everyone,

The Ichabod Crane Central School District administration and staff continues to monitor the situation very closely regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). ***While there are no confirmed cases here at Ichabod Crane or in Columbia County (as of 3/13/2020 at 4:00pm)*** we are aware of concerns in the community about the spread of this virus.

District administrators along with ICTA leadership continue to meet regularly and are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (DoH) and the NYS Department of Education (NYSED). We have created a Coronavirus Information webpage and will be updating it regularly as this situation evolves. ***Please be sure to check our webpage on a regular consistent basis.***

Out of an abundance of caution, and upon review of guidance from both the NYS Department of Education and the NYS Department of Health, we are taking proactive measures to help reduce the spread of any potential COVID-19 or other viruses in the community. Safety of our students, staff, and community are our number one priority. Therefore, we are canceling and/or postponing large gathering events and also limiting outside access to the campus. This will also allow our custodial staff to focus more on the necessary cleaning and disinfecting of our buildings, particularly in the evenings.

Guidance was received on the following topics: 24-hour Closure Rule, Strategies/Best Practices for Community Containment, Travel Related Considerations, Anti-Discrimination Considerations, Ensuring Continuity of Student Needs in the event of School Closure. Guidance from these sources changes on a daily basis and we will continue to communicate updates via our district website, social media and robocall, if necessary.

Our staff continues to clean and disinfect all high-touch and high-traffic areas daily throughout our school to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses. Students and staff are reminded about the importance of following proper handwashing technique and practicing good hygiene.

School-Sponsored Activities between 03/13/20 through 04/03/2020:

To reduce the instances of community contact at our schools, and to protect students and staff, the following events have been ***canceled and/or postponed;***

- ***High School Musical - Postponed - Date TBD***
- ***Adult Ed from 3/13 to 4/3.***
- ***Primary School Symphony of Whales - March 19***
- ***High School Wall of Fame Committee meeting - March 19***
- ***Middle School Activity Night - March 13***
- ***Primary School Screening - April 2***
- ***Middle School Activity Night - April 3***
- ***All County Music Festival - April 1 & 3***
- ***All Athletic Contests - NYS Athletic Assoc. Section II canceled all athletic contests through April 19th, all practices will continue.***
- ***All Field trips***
- ***All AAU events***
- ***All weekends events - no staff members with the exception of custodial staff and essential administrative staff to clean/sanitize all buildings***

School Building Access:

- All in-house school activities must end by 7 p.m. This includes all sports practice, play practice and OK Kids.
- All buildings will be closed on weekends for cleaning and disinfecting. This includes all staff members with the exception of custodial staff.
- No outside groups will have building access.

Academics:

- During the half day today on, Friday, March 13, all teaching staff worked on developing academic materials to provide to students should the need to close school for an extended period of time arise. ***The academic activities are primarily designed to keep students engaged while out of school and to prevent regression of content previously taught.*** These materials will either be distributed to your student in person if possible or will be available in each building for pick-up depending upon guidance from the State Education Department, CDC and the Department of Health. Please watch for more information on academics should this situation arise.

Food Services:

- Should schools need to close for a period of time there will be 3 locations within our district where families can pick up a daily free bagged breakfast & lunch for children under the age of 18. You will be able to check our website for pick-up locations and times. Please keep in mind all children must be present at the time of food pick-up.

Additional Information:

New York has established a Coronavirus Hotline, which can provide additional information. Call 1-888-364-3065 with questions or concerns about travel and symptoms.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>

Below are two links offering free internet access to households:

<https://www.wxxinews.org/post/free-spectrum-internet-being-offered-some-households-2-months>

<https://internetessentials.com/>

If the District becomes aware that a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, we will notify the school community immediately. If you or a family member begin showing symptoms of a respiratory illness, contact your primary healthcare provider. Guidance requires a one-day (24 hour) closure if one case is confirmed for a student or staff member. If a closure occurs the district will work with the Columbia County Health Department to disinfect the building prior to reopening.

I sincerely appreciate all of your understanding and support during this challenging time. Thank you. All the best.

Respectfully yours,



Mr. Jason D. Thomson
Superintendent of Ichabod Crane CSD