

Minerva Central School

Timothy F. Farrell - *Superintendent*

Nancy O'Brien - *Business Manager*



March 14, 2020

CLOSURE TO MINIMIZE THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Dear MCS Families,

I am writing with an update on the rapidly developing information regarding COVID-19/Coronavirus. After reviewing all recent information from the Centers for Disease Control and learning that Essex County (along with several other counties), New York State, and our nation, have all been placed on a state of emergency, Minerva Central School and all schools in our BOCES will be **cancelling classes and all school events and activities through April 19, 2020**, as a result of the COVID-19/Coronavirus. At this time there are no confirmed cases of the virus in our school community.

The district is approaching the closure with the following priorities:

1. The health and safety of our school and community.
2. Helping our families cope with the closure of the school district by addressing basic needs such as providing meals to families who need it.
3. Plans to encourage student learning for the duration of the closure.

Health and Safety

We recognize that this news will be concerning to many of our students and families. We ask that medical questions be directed to your family doctor/healthcare provider. During the closure, if you or one of your family members tests positive for COVID-19/Coronavirus, please contact the district office.

Student Access to Personal Belongings and Educational Materials at School:

A school representative will contact all families to arrange for the pick-up and/or delivery of all personal items from school.

Meals

A school representative will contact all families to arrange for the provision and delivery of school-provided breakfast and lunch. We will be providing access to food throughout the closure and specific details will be given to each family.

Backpack Program

This program will continue and deliveries will be made to each student's house on Friday.

Academic Planning

Although work has already begun on this, the district will have a Superintendent's Conference Day on Monday for staff to continue reviewing important materials and to create academic plans for your children.

Teachers at all levels will be putting together academic plans on Monday. Distribution of these plans will begin Tuesday. Families should expect to receive more information about staying connected during the closure early next week.

Out of District Placed Students

We will not be transporting private school students and students with special needs, whose placement is outside of the district.

Moving Forward

This situation is constantly evolving. Please stay tuned for updates as the next week unfolds. We will be communicating with families by posting information on our district website at www.minervasd.org and via the school's Facebook page.

Please know, as always, the health and safety of our students, staff, and community is our highest priority, and we will remain vigilant in our efforts to help prevent the spread of this illness.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy F. Farrell". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "T" and a cursive "F".

Timothy F. Farrell