



46 West Main Street Friendship, NY 14739-9702
Phone (585) 973-3311 • Fax (585) 973-2023

Dear Friendship Central School Community:

I am writing regarding the COVID-19 situation which has been rapidly evolving each day in our state and region. We have been in continual contact with local and State health officials and the New York State Department of Education as the situation unfolds, keeping the health and safety of students, staff, and the community as our top priority.

The Allegany and Cattaraugus County Health Departments have recommended that all school districts – including Friendship Central School – be closed to students effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020 through Sunday, April 12, 2020, with instruction occurring through alternative means. While there are still **no confirmed cases in our** region at the time of this communication, the action is being taken out of caution, as cases in neighboring counties continues to rise. The main purpose of the recommendation is to slow the potential spread of disease among students and the community by promoting social distancing and avoiding the gathering of large numbers of people.

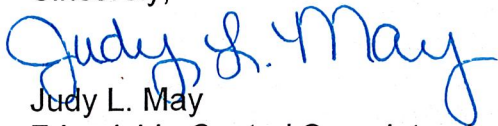
This time will be challenging for all communities, but we are dedicated to serving our students and keeping them as safe as possible while still allowing educational growth. Here are some important pieces to consider as we head into our planned closures:

- 1.) Our district and all programs will be closed to students on **Monday, March 16**. This closure will allow our instructional team and other staff members to train and finalize educational plans for students.
- 2.) Students should report for a regularly scheduled day on **Tuesday, March 17**. On this day, they will receive instruction for study, tools, and supplies for the duration of the closure. Students who attend a CTE program at a CA BOCES center will also receive instruction for their respective program. Parents will receive a copy of all instructions for their students.
- 3.) As a district, we do have a food plan in place to provide meals to those students who require it during the closure. You will be receiving specific communication on that shortly.
- 4.) Students with disabilities who receive specialized services will continue to receive the educational support needed to be successful. Service providers will be in contact soon to discuss the specific needs of your student.
- 5.) April 12, 2020 is our planned date for the end of the closure. We will, however, be constantly assessing to see if a longer or shorter closure will be required, using the feedback provided by local and State health officials as our guide.

- 6.) Please continue to keep your households as safe as possible by washing your hands regularly, avoiding contact with those who are sick, cleaning and disinfecting regularly used surfaces, and staying home when you are sick.
- 7.) Staff will still be available throughout the closure, through multiple channels, to support student work, answer questions, and ensure continuity of education.

We appreciate your support during this challenging time. We continue to be proactive in keeping our students, staff and communities safe. Please continue to take care of yourself and others.

Sincerely,



Judy L. May
Friendship Central Superintendent