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Dear Alden CSD Students and Families,

Before I begin, please know our thoughts are with each of you and the greater Alden community as we make our way through these challenging times. I want to thank you for your support and understanding as the face of education has completely changed in a few short weeks. Our mission continues to be the design and facilitation of a well-articulated curriculum and instructional program, as well as to support a community coalition that builds upon collaboration with local government, businesses, and organizations to increase services and opportunities for our Alden community; it just looks significantly different during these unprecedented times. This work is challenging for our students, parents and educators; please know that open communication (email or phone call) is vital. We are all here to assist, whatever the need may be.

Our faculty and administration continue to work diligently on creative ways to maintain continuity of instruction. Guidelines have been given to faculty that emphasize flexibility in assignments, feedback on assignments as well as opportunities for regular communication with their families. The delivery of this instruction is happening in a variety of ways across the District and is dependent on the grade level, internet access at home, as well as course content. This "remote learning" can never take the place of face-to-face instruction and we are not expecting parents to assume the role of the teacher, which is why I encourage you to maintain consistent communication with each of your teachers. Principals, teachers, and support staff remain committed to supporting their students and families and, in fact, look forward to the communication, as they too miss you.

In addition to ongoing academic support, our food service department, teacher aides, and transportation department continue to provide more than 6,500 meals per week to our students. We were able to respond to the critical request from the Erie County Health Department to provide local hospitals with N95 masks and other personal protective equipment from our supply, and we are grateful for the ongoing collaboration with our community partners.

I remain in daily contact with superintendents and governmental leaders from around the region. Our administrative team is in close contact throughout each day as we review and update plans while looking to the future. The latest Executive Order from Governor Cuomo requires instruction to continue through our scheduled spring recess, so please plan on learning more about this in the coming days. We are awaiting further direction from the State regarding the re-opening of schools or to learn if the closure will continue. Please check our website at www.aldenschools.org for additional information.

We will get through this together. Please keep yourself and families safe and well.

Sincerely,

Adam Stoltman
Superintendent of Schools