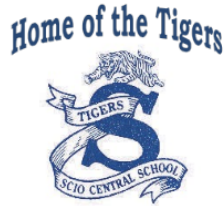


**JENNIFER CAPPELLETTI**  
Superintendent of Schools

**NICHELE LINDERMAN**  
Business Administrator

**District Fax (585) 593-3468**



**CRISTY McKINLEY**  
PK-12 Principal

**KELLY MOREHOUSE**  
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

**Main Office Fax (585) 593-0653**

## **SCIO CENTRAL SCHOOL**

3968 WASHINGTON STREET, SCIO, NEW YORK 14880  
www.scio.wnyric.org Phone (585)593-5510

Dear Scio Families,

We continue to miss our regular contact with all of you and hope that you are all doing well. Although we are apart, we are always here for you. Throughout this closure, we continue to work to provide instruction for our students. As you read this letter, please keep in mind that we know that this pandemic is presenting a variety of circumstances for everyone. We are working to streamline our processes to help families and staff through consistency, but we also realize that we all face different challenges. Please reach out to us as needed.

### **Regents Examinations**

The Board of Regents distributed guidance about the cancelled Regents Exams and the impact of graduation requirements. According to an SED news release, "Students who, during the June 2020 examination period would have taken one or more Regents examinations, will be exempted from passing the assessments in order to be issued a diploma".

To qualify for an exemption from a Regents exam, a student must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- The student is currently enrolled in a course ending in a Regents examination and will have earned course credit by the end of the 2019-20 school year; or
- The student is in grade 7, is enrolled in a course ending in a Regents exam and will have passed such course of study by the end of the 2019-20 school year; or
- The student is currently enrolled in a course ending in a Regents examination and has failed to earn credit by the end of the school year. If the student returns for summer instruction to make up the failed course and earns course credit and is subsequently granted diploma credit in August 2020; or
- The student was previously enrolled in a course leading to an applicable Regents examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated Regents examination but intended to take the test in June 2020 to achieve a passing score.

Students must pass the Regents class and earn course credit to be eligible for the Regents exemption. We will need to remind all students that they need to continue completing assigned tasks to earn course credit and take advantage of this opportunity.

### **4th Quarter Grading**

As we enter the 4th quarter, teachers will be providing new instruction and assigning schoolwork. Teachers are aware of the importance of limiting assignments and instruction as students are not spending the same amounts of time on school and families don't have the time and resources to devote to such activities. Our teachers have had contact with their students and have found a way to communicate instruction/assignments for all. If you are concerned your child is not being contacted, please email your child's teacher directly or call the school. For as long as we are providing

instruction remotely, grading will be as follows:

Relative to new assignments, a three-tiered placeholder system will be used in the interim. We are trying not leave any student who attempts to participate behind during these unprecedented times. As such, we will not be recording any failing grades during the extended closure and will allow students to revisit unsubmitted and/or unsatisfactory work when school resumes or when we receive more clear guidance from the NYSED. Our rationale for this is student-centered and multi-layered. This includes issues pertaining to, but not limited to, appropriate equal access, IEP mandates, 504 regulations, potential mental health issues, etc.

Therefore, the three tiers for grade reporting for the Interim 4th Marking Period are as follows:

- “NG” (No Grade): assignment not submitted
- “U” (Unsatisfactory): assignment submitted but does not meet minimum requirements
- Any passing numeric grade (ex. 7/10, 85%, 65-100): grades entered as usual

Return to School in 4th Quarter

- Grades entered as usual

## Use of Technology/Platforms

As we work to provide continuity of instruction to all students in the district, we are moving in a direction of two main learning platforms. These platforms were chosen based on ability to connect in low WiFi locations, user friendly capabilities, and student data privacy. We understand that this will be a process. Some teachers and students were using these platforms prior to the closure and others are just getting started. We are not expecting this change to be immediate as we need to provide support to make this happen. Over the next week, we will be providing videos to assist with using Microsoft Office Teams. We also understand that additional laptops may be needed in some households. We will be assisting families with this soon.

### Grades 3-12:

All students in grades 3-12 will use Microsoft Office Teams as a learning platform. In going with one platform, we can provide support to teachers and students in a more effective and efficient manner. Enclosed with this letter is a step by step process for getting into your Teams account. Students need to connect to the internet to access Teams and download/upload their assignments. They can then work on assignments without WiFi. Once assignments are complete, students will be able to upload the files back into Teams the next time they are on WiFi.

We are asking that families that do not have internet access in their homes, to connect to WiFi at least twice per week to download and upload course materials. For your convenience, WiFi access points around our community are listed below. Please do not linger in these areas. It should only take a few minutes to download and upload assignments. If you are unable to drive to these locations, please contact the school for an alternative plan.

### Grades PK-2:

All PK-2 teachers will use Class Dojo to connect with parents and students. This app requires a low-level internet connection. It can be accessed on computers, laptops, or smart phones. PreK-2 teachers are learning how to use the app and will continue to communicate with you in other ways until we can support you in the use of this tool.

#### WiFi Access Points:

You will be able to connect to WiFi in the following areas. Please remain in your vehicle in order to maintain responsible social distancing.

**Scio Central School Parking Lot:** WiFi in the school parking lot has been boosted in the area near the entrance for games in the gym and in the bus loop area. The strongest signal and fastest connection speed will be on the Scio Guest Outdoor that should have a stronger signal and faster connection speed. Users can continue to use the Scio Network as well.

**Belmont BOCES Front Parking Lot:** The Belmont BOCES front parking lot has open internet access that has also been boosted for student use.

**Allentown Location:** We will be parking a bus in Allentown on a regular schedule. More information on this will be provided next week.

Thank you to Salamanca School District for the loan of their bus to provide this option.

**Personal Smart Phones:** Almost all smart phones can be used as hot spots. A hot spot allows you to connect a computer, through your phone to the internet. Both T-Mobile and Verizon have given additional data out to customers during this closure. Please check with your phone carrier for more information.

#### Additional Support:

**Meals:** Meals are now being provided on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On Mondays and Wednesdays, meals are included for two days. If you have not been getting meals and would still like to sign up, please call to let us know.

**Community Resources:** On our website there is a link to community resources. This link includes phone numbers for counselors in our area, information about food pantries, how to talk to your children about Covid-19, and ideas for self-care.

I know that all of this information can seem overwhelming in this already stressful time. Please reach out to me at any time with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Cappelletti, Superintendent  
585-596-6310 [jcappelletti@sciocsd.org](mailto:jcappelletti@sciocsd.org)