



March 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know, we are all facing a difficult public health situation, the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). It is an unsettling time for all, and I assure you that the Schalmont Schools are in close communication with the County and State and doing everything possible to protect our students, community, and our staff.

Like many others, our district is closely following guidelines from the CDC and the World Health Organization, and our local and national health organizations. In that vein, and in support of efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19, the District is committed to providing as many resources as possible for both students and parents, all of which will be delivered in a format students are accustomed to using in class. We are providing our students in Grades 2-6 with a Chromebook to take home today in the event we need to engage in remote learning. These Chromebooks should remain at home until we signal for them to be returned.

Here are some things to consider as you support our teachers:

Time: Try to establish time on a regular basis where students are using the resources provided by our educators.

Access: Make sure that your student can access the educational materials which are shared with them, either in paper or online. In some cases, this may require you to check in on student progress or provide some support.

Activity: Our student's body, as well as their mind, needs to be engaged. Having some time for physical activity is important as well.

Praise: Encourage our students in their work and reinforce their efforts. We want them to stay engaged in the learning process as much as possible.

Partnership: As always, it is important that students, parents, and teachers work together for the education of our children. In some cases, this may require you to check in on student progress or provide some support. Please be on the lookout for instructional and expectations from our teachers.

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Practice patience, not perfection. As the threat of school closures looms we must acknowledge that we will have the capacity to implement some learning away from school, however, there will be mistakes and learning moments. Forgive yourself and us of imperfections along the way. We are all doing to the best that we can with what we have.

Feedback. We encourage both you and the students to provide us with feedback so we can all learn during this process.

We know that closing our schools would impact our most vulnerable families and we recognize that working families depend on the consistency and predictability of supports and services our schools offer. This is a rapidly-changing situation, and we will continue to keep parents informed and support families in any way we can. At this time this process is all precautionary and an exercise in preparedness. We currently have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Schalmont Central Schools.

I thank each of you for working hard through a difficult time, now's a good time to lean on each other and draw strength from our community.

Respectfully,

Carol Pallas

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Superintendent