



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
201 Main Street
VESTAL, NEW YORK 13850

March 26, 2020

Dear Vestal School District Families, Staff, and Community Members,

I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and safe. As you know, area schools are closed until April 14, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I will keep you informed of any changes to this date. Please know that our teachers, administrators, and staff are working behind the scenes in an attempt to provide appropriate educational material during this time of school closure. Much of this work involves putting a foundation in place to support ongoing learning.

During this time, our District has not wavered in its commitment to the education, health, and well-being of our students. All members of our school community are working each day to adjust to this unique and unprecedented situation: instructional staff, support staff, counselors, school psychologists, custodians, food service, principals, district administrators, and the Board of Education are unified in this commitment. While our buildings are not open, our instructional staff are working every day using a range of technology to maintain our connection to your children and their education in an effort to move our educational program forward.

The New York State Education Department has announced the cancellation of annual assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics for grades 3-8, as well as Science tests for grades 4 and 8. Additionally, the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) and the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) have been cancelled. We will keep you informed of any changes and pertinent information as updates become available.

We encourage you to visit the [Vestal Home Learning Resource Webpage](#) for instructional materials. Additionally, our teachers are communicating with their students and providing review, supplemental, and enrichment materials for home learning. If your student is in need of a school-issued Chromebook, please email the building principal. We will do our best to issue your student a device. This may include delivery to your home by one of the School Resource Officers.

We continue to collaborate with Broome County and area BOCES school districts to provide breakfast/lunch meals for students 18 years old or younger. In an effort to reduce the number of food service workers reporting to work each day, a new pick-up schedule will be in place beginning next week. Food pick-up at both Vestal locations (Clayton Avenue Elementary and African Road Elementary) will only take place on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning the week of March 30, 2020. Going forward, there will be no meal pick-ups on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays at the Vestal locations. Students will be given meals for three days on Tuesdays, as well as on Fridays. Please see the District's website for more information on [Grab & Go pick-up locations](#). Also, the African Road Elementary food pick-up location will relocate from the front doors of the building to the auditorium doors on the east side of the building for the next two weeks.

In consultation with Broome County, all Vestal School playgrounds and school athletic fields, including Dick Hoover Stadium, are closed. Please respect the effort to maintain social distancing as we all do our part for the greater good. After careful consideration and consultation with public health experts, we determined these measures to be the best and safest options for our students and our community. We appreciate your cooperation and assure you that we are doing all we can during this difficult time.

All Vestal Schools and offices are closed to the public. If you need to contact your student's school, please email the principal or use the following email addresses:

Building/Dept.	Email Address
Administration Offices	requests@vestal.k12.ny.us
African Road Elementary	africanroad@vestal.k12.ny.us
Clayton Avenue Elementary	claytonave@vestal.k12.ny.us
Glenwood Elementary	glenwood@vestal.k12.ny.us
Special Education Department	specialed@vestal.k12.ny.us
Tioga Hills Elementary	tiogahills@vestal.k12.ny.us
Vestal Hills Elementary	vestalhills@vestal.k12.ny.us
Vestal Middle School	middleschool@vestal.k12.ny.us
Vestal High School	highschool@vestal.k12.ny.us

At this time, we are evaluating many school events and activities that will be impacted by this school closure. We will inform you regularly of cancellations or postponement as events unfold in the coming weeks. We are also in the process of evaluating the impact of school closure on District level processes, including the development of the annual school budget, budget vote/election, and Board of Education meetings.

We appreciate the dedication shown by our staff, as well as all those who have volunteered to help the District in many ways during this uncertain time. Please know that, 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 prevent the spread of this virus.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey J. Ahearn
Superintendent

Challenge

Support

Foster

Invest