

March 23, 2020

Dear Haldane Community,

I read this morning that in a crisis, we either all succeed or we all fail. I believe that over the past week our school community has succeeded in adapting to an incredibly unique challenge. Our teachers and our families have transitioned to supporting one another in the distance education of over 800 students. Our food services staff coordinated breakfast and lunch service for over 100 students, and our PTA, Faculty Association, and CSEA created care packages for families in need. All of this while our community adapts to growing restrictions to combat the spread of COVID-19. While more difficult days likely lay ahead, our community has demonstrated incredible resilience over the past week.

A few updates for you:

- I continue to be in daily communication with the Department of Health. The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has increased significantly over the past few days in the county, to the point where the Department of Health has indicated that every town is impacted. Please continue to practice social distancing, including around the community spaces on our campus, to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- This morning I encouraged our teachers to think about the coming week(s) as a marathon, not a sprint. I want their focus to be on supporting our families with an emphasis on gradually expanding their digital learning practices. This is going to take time, persistence, and patience, and I appreciate your continued support.
- The current school closure lasts through March 31; however, I anticipate that the closure will be extended beyond that time. As soon as I have more information I will be sure to share it with you.
- I am continuing to explore ways to connect with our community members in the coming week(s) to answer your questions and discuss how we can be of further support. Please be on the lookout for an additional update regarding these opportunities.

I wish you continued good health in the week ahead. My next communication will be sent later this week unless there is a need to do so sooner.

Sincerely,
Phil Benante, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Haldane Central School District