

PAWLING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kim Fontana
Superintendent of Schools



Neysa T. Sensenig, Ed. D.
Assistant Superintendent for Finance

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Small Size ~ Diverse Opportunities

March 11, 2020

Dear Pawling Families, Staff, and Students,

This communication updates information we have posted on our website as of March 4, 2020 regarding seasonal flu and novel Corona Virus (COVID-19).

We continue to monitor the situation diligently and remain fortunate to have excellent communication with the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health, as well as contact with the New York State Department of Health. Should we need to make decisions about closing school, we will be guided by these agencies as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines and the World Health Organization as well as guidance from the State Education Department.

Since I wrote to you last, we have made decisions to cancel or postpone some field trips and events. We are making these decisions, in conjunction with school staff, on a case-by-case basis. Some of the factors we consider are who and how many people will attend, what are the activities, whether there are workable opportunities to postpone that will be of equal benefit, etc. While we will make every effort to communicate any cancellations, my suggestion is that if you are wondering about an event, do check our district calendar or athletic calendar.

I remain very proud of our staff for the physical and educational environment we have maintained for our students. Our custodians and facilities staff have been diligent in following and exceeding all cleaning guidelines for touch surfaces in our schools and have increased the routine disinfecting of our buses and certain athletic equipment. They are doing an excellent job as are our nurses. Our instructional staff and mental health providers continue to support a positive environment for student learning and I am reassured that students continue to grow, learn, and thrive in our classrooms. Our instructional and operational leaders have met multiple times and updated continuity of operations plans. They continue to help our instructors develop flexible plans for supporting learning should we experience any interruption in school.

Tomorrow, I will again be meeting with the Commissioner of Behavioral and Community Health and Dutchess County Emergency Response personnel along with my Dutchess County superintendent colleagues. On Friday, I will be meeting with most superintendents in the entire lower and mid-Hudson valley. Our students in Pawling benefit from our coordination and information sharing.

With all the above said, the situation is fluid and can change rapidly. We will continue to make every effort to provide timely information. In the meantime, should you have questions, please feel free to reach out to your child's principal or me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Fontana".

Kim Fontana