

PAWLING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kim Fontana
Superintendent of Schools



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Assistant Superintendent for Finance

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Small Size ~ Diverse Opportunities

March 12, 2020

Dear Pawling Families, Staff, and Students,

I am writing to update you on a direction Dutchess County has taken in response to its efforts to reduce the impact of COVID 19 and share how we are cooperating with the county's efforts.

Today, at noon, all Dutchess County superintendents of schools and I participated in a meeting with the Dutchess County Commissioner of Behavioral and Community Health and the County Executive. They informed us of steps they are taking to reduce the impact of COVID-19. They shared that they would be announcing the first confirmed case of COVID 19 in Dutchess County and assured each of us that should a confirmed case develop in our school communities, we would be promptly informed by the Department of Health. To date, there are **no** cases of COVID-19 in our school community. Should that change, you will be promptly informed by me.

The County Executive has asked Dutchess County residents to refrain from participating in large social gatherings and asked organizations that sponsor these to postpone such events. The Pawling Central School District will be complying and supporting the county's efforts. This means that we will be postponing the following events:

- Our Pawling High School Musical, originally scheduled for the end of March
- Our Pawling High School Prom, originally scheduled for the beginning of April
- All athletic contests (practices will continue)

A variety of other events, meetings, and celebrations will also be postponed.

The County Executive and Commissioner emphasized that schools should remain open and distinguished regular school activities from large social gatherings. The purpose of restricting large social gatherings is to limit the contact between students and those populations at higher risk, such as the elderly, and also to limit the access of people from different communities to one another, especially in large groups. They also distinguished the value of having the K-12 population in school from decisions that have been made about college and university settings, where students often include more vulnerable populations. As we have stated earlier, any decisions about interruptions to schooling will be guided by the Dutchess County Department of Health, the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department.

Sincerely,

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

Kim Fontana

