

FORT EDWARD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Daniel Ward
Superintendent of Schools

Karen Jones
PK-5 Principal

Samuel Ratti
6-12 Principal

March 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing with an update on the rapidly developing information regarding COVID-19/Coronavirus. After reviewing all the recent information provided by the Center for Disease Control and learning that New York State has been placed in a “State of Emergency”, the Fort Edward School District will be joining the 30 other school districts in the WSWHE BOCES and cancelling classes, all school events, and all activities both on and off campus through April 19, 2020. This closure is a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic and has received full support from Washington County. It is important to note that at this time there are no confirmed cases of the virus in our school community and this closure is proactive in nature and intended to protect our students and community as a whole.

The district is approaching the closure with the following priorities:

1. Ensuring that we are PROACTIVE with the health and safety of our community.
2. Helping our community cope with the closure of the school district by addressing basic needs such as providing free and reduced-price meals to families who need it. (*Additional information will be communicated in the future*).
3. Plans to encourage student learning for the duration of the closure.

Health and Safety

The district recognizes that this news will be concerning to many of our students and families. We ask that medical questions be directed to your family doctor/healthcare provider. During the closure, if you or one of your family members tests positive for COVID-19/Coronavirus, please contact the district office and be certain to notify public health.

A districtwide closure means that all Fort Edward School District activities, and events, including sports practices, are canceled.

Meals

The district will be working to provide a lunch for all students as soon as possible. Once the logistics of this process are determined, you will be receiving a call with the specific details.

Backpack Program

We will continue our Backpack Program. We are working to facilitate deliveries to student’s homes.

Academic Planning

Although work has already begun on this, faculty will be in the building on Monday and Tuesday to continue reviewing important materials and to create academic plans for your children.

Teachers at all levels will be putting together academic plans throughout the closure. These materials will be shared with families directly and you will be able to find them on the district website. Families should expect to receive more information about staying connected during the closure early next week.

Out of District Placed Students

We will not be transporting private school students and students with special needs, whose placement is outside of the district, while the district is closed.

This situation is constantly evolving. The district will continue to evaluate the situation and determine next steps as we continue to help mitigate the community spread of COVID-19/Coronavirus. Please stay tuned for updates as next week unfolds. We will be communicating with families through the automated calling system and posting information on our district website.

Please know, as always, the health and safety of our students, staff, and community members is our highest priority, and we will remain vigilant in our efforts to help prevent the spread of this illness.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Ward
Superintendent of Schools
Fort Edward Union Free School District

[New York State DOH Website](#)

For general questions about COVID-19 please call the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) 24/7 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or visit the Washington County Website at www.washingtoncountyny.gov/coronavirus