

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are aware, the situation regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is changing rapidly.

At this time, there are no confirmed cases in Columbia County. As part of our ongoing effort to communicate with you about this public health pandemic, we have a number of cancelations regarding field trips and outside groups using our school facilities. This is being done to remain consistent with the state's restriction on large gatherings as well as our neighboring schools across Columbia County.

Beginning **Monday, March 16**, we are canceling all **non-district** events until March 31, 2020. This is being done, in part, to give our staff adequate time to clean/disinfect all areas of the district, as well as to help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19.

All district-sponsored events happening during the school day, including assemblies, morning programs, celebrations of learning, etc. will go on as planned. Large indoor gatherings during non-school hours, such as talent shows, concerts, etc. that are open to the public are canceled.

For a more in-depth look at what will continue and what will be canceled, view the table below.

Continuing	Canceled
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• District-sponsored classes (including Questar programs)• District-sponsored after school clubs• District-sponsored after school rehearsals• District-approved before and after care• District-sponsored breakfast and lunch in school cafeterias• District-sponsored staff meetings and professional development• District-sponsored assemblies that are part of the school day• After school athletics practices• Board of Education meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any large gathering held indoors after school hours• Any non-District-sponsored events, meetings, programs, etc.• District-sponsored indoor performing arts events• Section II athletic scrimmages are suspended through April 19 (practices can continue during this time)

The district is also postponing or canceling all school-sponsored student field trips or travel of any kind outside of school district boundaries.

As we continue to be proactive in our actions, we have been meeting to develop an Education Plan in the event of a prolonged school closure. This plan includes, but is not limited to, connectivity and internet access in homes of students and providing devices for students who do not have them. We understand online instruction may not be feasible for everyone so the district is also discussing other viable options. Please be assured that alternative learning plans are in development just in case. When such plans have been finalized more details will be shared with families.

We would like to remind you that the best defense against contracting COVID-19 is to practice proper handwashing technique and healthy hygiene habits.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. If you develop symptoms, please call your primary care physician and follow their guidance on how to proceed.