



May 19, 2020

Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

This is an update regarding topics we have been discussing in the district. We will cover the most important ones for now first in the communication and follow up with others in the coming weeks.

Food Distribution this week – On Friday, our food service and transportation staff will provide double meals to families needing assistance. This is so that they all may enjoy the Memorial Day holiday on Monday. Again, double meals Friday (May 21), no meal distribution Monday (May 25).

End of Year Schedule – Our school year will now follow the revised schedule that has been communicated to our staff. This is a result of working through the spring break period in order to meet state requirements for days in session.

In Horseheads, **June 12** will be the last day for students to be assigned work. On **June 15 and 16**, students can turn in any missing assignments. From **June 15 to 18**, teachers and students continue social emotional end-of-year check-ins and wrap up for the year. **June 19** will be our last conference day and final check-out day for instructional staff to make sure we are set to close for summer.

Student Technology Turn In – We will be collecting signed out technology on **June 22, 23, and 24**. Please mark your calendars if you have borrowed laptops from the district.

Graduation – *The district was recently notified that unless we get state approval, no in-person graduation ceremonies are permitted at this time.* Although we disagree with this position and know that our students can handle a socially distanced graduation on our football field in a safe manner, we will be planning a virtual graduation. If an in-person graduation becomes possible, we have set aside either June 25, 26, or 27, weather permitting, for a graduation ceremony. This graduation would need to be by invite only. More information will follow as we seek guidance and approval by the state.

Grading - At the beginning of the month, we shared our approach to grading students during the extended dismissal: Grades PK-4 teachers will provide strictly feedback to help students grow in their learning; grades 5-12 teachers will provide both feedback and grades that will result in Pass, Fail, and Honors (P/F/H) marks for the final marking period as well as the overall grade for a class. We are creating a procedure for high school transcripts combining percentage grades from the previous marking periods with the current P/F/H marking period resulting in a P/F/H transcript grade. Additional information on grading will be sent next week.

School Budget Vote and Elections – In accordance with the Governor's executive order, all voting must take place through absentee ballot. Information is being mailed via post card to all residents with the directions on how to vote. Completed ballots must be at the district by 5pm June 9, 2020.

2020-21 School Year Planning – Many have asked about next school year and what will happen in Horseheads. I do not have an answer currently as we wait for guidance from the state. I know one thing for certain: our entire staff misses our students, and we too look forward to getting back to the classroom, not solely for academics, but just to be together. We will update you as soon as we learn more.

I cannot say enough how proud and grateful I am for everyone's efforts in this challenging time. Thank you all for your support, understanding, and patience as we continue to work together.

Stay Home, Stay Safe, Be Well!

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools