



Sherman Central School

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April 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you well and that you and your family are safe and healthy during this unprecedented time. As our school closure progresses deep into the spring, we wanted to update you on several items that have taken place at Sherman Central School and at the State level.

Continuity of Education and Food Delivery over Break

You may have read that Governor Cuomo has ordered that schools still provide a continuity of education and meals over scheduled holidays and breaks. Sherman Central School will move forward with that directive. On Thursday, April 9, SCS will deliver enough food to cover April 9, 10, and 13. On Tuesday, April 14, SCS will deliver meals to students to cover April 14, 15, 16, and 17.

Also during the week that was originally spring break, teachers will provide enough work and resources for students to continue their education from April 13-17. Teachers will inquire about this work starting on Monday, April 20. Please, still continue to communicate with teachers anytime you wish.

Finally, when possible, we are encouraging families to utilize digital means to transport work back and forth between your child and their teacher. This is to limit exposure of the virus to our SCS essential employees.

Grading and Report Cards

Our goal is to prevent educational regression during this time and to prepare students for the 2020-2021 school year. Sherman Central School recognizes that it is impossible to sustain educational equity when students are not in the building on a daily basis. With that said, we are working around the clock to close the gap between students that have more resources at home than others. Therefore, teachers will continue to inquire about work that is going home and provide feedback on that work. However, we will continue to hold on formal grading. No grades will be entered into PowerSchool. Any formal system of grading creates an inequitable system between students who have certain resources at home and those who do not have the same resources.

Also, school closed three weeks before the end of the third quarter. We cannot, in good conscience, provide final grades for the third quarter when students missed this critical time to improve their standings. Again, recognizing the inequities a report card can create during this emergency, we will wait until guidance and mandates are handed down from the State before proceeding. When it comes, we will work within that guidance to create a plan that is appropriate for Sherman Central School.

Childcare for Essential Workers

If you are in need of child care because you are an essential worker or first responder during this crisis, please visit the district website and complete the survey to assess your needs. We will work with families to find high-quality care so you can continue with your critical work.

Mr. Michael V. Ginestre • Superintendent
Mrs. Ann M. Morrison • Principal
Mrs. Nicole M. Marino • Assistant Principal

Board of Education
Mr. Brian Bates • President
Mrs. Colleen Meeder • Vice President
Ms. Jennifer Ferreira
Mrs. Teresa Guzman
Mr. Timothy Sears

Mrs. Kimberly Oehlbeck • School Business Administrator
Mrs. Tracie D. Smith • District Clerk

Critical Mental Health Services

As the weeks progress during this pandemic, we understand anxiety levels will continue to rise. Our school counselors, social worker, parent liaison, and school psychologist are here to help. All of these services are continuing via telephone or video conferencing while students are not in the building. If you would like to utilize these services, please contact the school between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Again, we hope you are well and continue to practice social distancing to help flatten the curve. Please encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and stay out of public places where other people can congregate. We will keep you posted as other developments unfold on the local and State level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael V. Ginestre". The signature is stylized with a large initial "M" and a prominent "V".

Michael V. Ginestre -- Superintendent