



Superintendent Announcement- 11/20/2020

Happy Thanksgiving!

The district extends warmest wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to our families. We're very thankful for your continued support, understanding, flexibility, and collaboration as we navigate these difficult times. Your kind words, and appreciation for the district's efforts, have been communicated to our staff and we are very grateful. It is more important than ever to share kindness, positive words and actions with our young people, family, friends, co-workers and other important people in our lives as we all motivate each other to remain Cougar Strong!

As we celebrate our Thanksgiving recess, beginning November 25, 2020 until classes resume on November 30, 2020, we are cautious and concerned about the potential spikes in COVID cases. We are committed to continuing in-person learning. Eighty-three (83%) of our families have chosen this model which reinforces the importance, value, and appreciation for having students attend school in-person. The district team is doing our very best to support the instructional models and the emotional well-being of our students and families, however we cannot do this alone. We must look out for each other and remain committed to the health and safety protocols outlined by our NYS public health and education agencies. At NCCS alone, we have had 7 students (only three on-campus) and 2 adults confirmed positive cases.

If we, as a community, don't follow the appropriate guidelines/recommendations below, we will be facing the serious threat of school closure following the Thanksgiving recess. More positive cases will also increase the risk of loved ones becoming sick, and family plans being canceled, during the Christmas/New Year recess. The decisions we make today will impact tomorrow and the months ahead.

- Continue wearing masks
- Maintain at least six feet of physical distancing
- Wash hands often
- Disinfect objects between use
- If you are sick, STAY HOME
- Complete daily health screenings

Also:

- Please review the travel restrictions outlined by Governor Cuomo for those coming into and leaving New York. Read more about the updated guidelines here:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

- NYS has established guidelines limiting indoor and outdoor gatherings at private residences to no more than 10 people. This may appear to be unreasonable, especially during the holiday season, however, failure to comply could impact our ability to continue in-person learning.

We're Here for You!

We understand that students around the nation have been experiencing learning gaps and academic distress since the start of the pandemic. Now, more than ever, we need to have quality conversations with our young people and be involved in their education. Please communicate as needed with our school team and emphasize to your children the importance of being engaged with their academic curriculums. Grades will not be represented as Pass/Fail, like they were last spring; students will be held accountable for actively participating in their education. It is important that phone contacts remain updated and families communicate changes to our building offices so our systems are current.

We're very concerned about the social well-being of our young people and families. Medical and scientific professionals predict that the next few months will be very difficult, so please reach out to any of the valuable resources your children may need. This includes administration, faculty and staff, or any other family or community members that your children admire. In addition to supporting our children, please be mindful that our families may also need our support, so let's look out for each other and offer assistance when we're able. As a community, we need to be here for each other now more than ever. We will get through this together, because we're Cougar Strong! This Thanksgiving, let's go around the table and share with our immediate family what we are thankful for in life. Our young people are relying on us to focus on the positive and to guide and filter our conversations to bring hope, peace, and love into our homes. Instead of surrounding ourselves with negativity that can increase isolation, fear and despair in ourselves and others, let's choose to model optimism and positivity for our loved ones and our community.

In closing, THANK YOU for all you do and for your belief in our school system. As Bob Marley said, "You never know how strong you are, until being strong is your only choice!". We are confident that our students, with their boundless potential, guided by our talented and dedicated faculty and staff, and supported by our positive and wonderful families, will learn, grow, and reach new heights, even in times when we face the most uncertainty.

I'm honored and proud to serve the Northeastern Clinton CSD school community. Let's keep our outlook optimistic, continue to laugh, and hopefully be ready to hug and give high fives again by the end of the school year. Best wishes for happiness and good health during the holiday season!