



# Northeastern Clinton Central School District

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Dear Northeastern Clinton CSD Families,

It's been a stressful time for all of us, especially as we learn new information by the hour. **Despite the many changes, our commitment to our NCCS families will remain consistent.** Our district will continue to do our very best to support our children and their families with the information we receive. NCCS is a community that prides itself on helping people in need whether by picking up the phone, being at someone's door with a meal, and even sometimes providing a bed for someone to stay. Now is the time for our community spirit to be at its greatest as we face these challenges together.

As Superintendent, I have taken an oath - which I take seriously - to be on the front lines for our community during times of crisis such as the current coronavirus/ COVID 19 pandemic. Our entire school team has made the same commitment. These are the latest updates:

- **The state has directed that academic services be provided for continued learning.** Administration and teachers are working together to provide these services.
- **Our essential support staff has been limited** in order to follow the preventative measures put in place by our local health authorities. We have an administrator, counselor, nurse, secretary, aides, and custodians on staff daily should someone need assistance.
- Yesterday, the district posted on our web page **important contact information for Clinton County resources** that may be able to assist you during this difficult time. Any students or families that are showing high levels of anxiety are asked to call **518-298-8242** and we will do our very best to assist you. Counselors have been tasked to connect with, and provide additional support for, the students they work with. We are here for all of you so please do not hesitate to reach out.

## What can you do?

As adults, we have the opportunity to model positive behavior that will shape our children. Even students who don't write in a journal will remember what they hear, see and feel during this time. We've been called to action. Now's the time to get it right!

- **Remain optimistic** but prepare to accept that things may get worse before they get better. The economy will continue to struggle and mental health concerns will be on the rise.
- **Ask for help.** Do not feel embarrassed or afraid to ask for assistance; all conversations with our staff will remain confidential.
- **Reassure your children.** Quality conversations are critical now, more than ever. Find out what our children are thinking and reassure them that they will be okay. They need to know that they are loved, valued and protected. Surprise them with game and movie nights; drop everything and read; put up a tent in the living room; sit in a circle and allow everyone to share one positive thing about each family member, their school, community, and the world.

- **Remain calm and be kind to one another.** Kind words and actions don't cost money, and now is the time for us to become the richest community by breathing out hope, peace, and love. We are in control of our actions and attitudes and the right choice is to remain calm and believe in each other.
- **Be creative and focus on the positive.** Call or video chat with family and friends. Organize and coordinate some neighborhood activities to keep yourselves emotionally connected. Some great examples have been everyone putting up Christmas lights, and lighting them at the same time each night. Or ringing bells, shaking noise makers or playing musical instruments at a certain time each night. Start a neighborhood email or facebook group to share ideas and put some fun things into place. Even consider putting signs in your yard, stating, "We are Northeastern Strong." We can spread positivity and hope in our own communities and beyond.

### What's Next?

In addition to the many letters, robocalls, tips, and other guidance we continue to send, we would also like to post a few photos on our website to share the partnerships we have within our school and community. Please feel free to send a photo of one of our students at work, of your family enjoying a new hobby or any other ideas that you wish to share to Anna Oliver, District Clerk at [aoliver@nccscougar.org](mailto:aoliver@nccscougar.org). Please note we will not be able to post all pictures. Please also share them on Facebook.

I want to thank each of you for your support during this time. We only know how strong we are during our weakest moments. I'm very proud to be a member of this strong community and I'm grateful for the dedicated NCCS staff who, despite challenges and obstacles, have been able to provide continued learning opportunities for our children. We have received very positive feedback and encourage you to continue to reach out; knowing we are making a difference gives us strength!

On a personal note, I pledge to every community member, young and old, to give my BEST EACH DAY and ALL DAY! I will lead by example and represent our families to the best of my ability. I'm honored to represent Northeastern Clinton and, rest assured, there's no place I'd rather be than Cougar Country as we fight the good fight.

Yours in Education,



Robb Garrand  
Superintendent of Schools