

Canastota Central School District

120 Roberts Street, Canastota, New York 13032 • 315.697.2025

Board of Education

Bill Haddad

President

Loran Crosby

Vice President



May 1, 2020

Dear Canastota Community,

I'm writing this letter to all of our students, families, and staff. Based on today's decision from Governor Cuomo to close the schools for the rest of this academic year, we, the Administration and School Board are processing the announcement and next steps.

At this time, there has been no guidance from the Governor's office or NY State Education Department as to what this means for "Everything Else" - proms/balls, moving up ceremonies, graduation, awards, etc.

We are going to see how the **next few days** shake out with information from Albany, as we have seen in the past that the press conferences do not always match the letter of the law.

These circumstances could not have been imagined by anyone. The severity of a worldwide pandemic in a modern age should be unheard of, but here we are.

We continue to gather input from parents, students, and community members as to what we can do to make things special for our students. Just because you are not hearing anything directly from us, understand that we are monitoring and contemplating action plans by the minute.

At this moment, students might frankly be at the point of throwing their hands up and saying, "It just doesn't matter anymore." Parents learning new skills to help their students might be in the same boat. **But it does matter.** Forget the grades for a moment – Albert Einstein wrote: "Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it." Let's finish out the year strong.

We are going to continue to pursue plans to make this school year ending as special as possible.

Thank you for all your support,

Bill Haddad

Canastota School Board President