

Canastota Central School District

120 Roberts Street, Canastota, New York 13032 • 315.697.2025

District Office

Nicholas A. Panuccio
School District Business Leader

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Superintendent of Schools



Good Afternoon:

I hope everyone is feeling healthy and making the best of a difficult situation. I wanted to provide you with an update on several items related to the operation of the school during this shutdown period. It is important to note that school districts are considered to be an “essential” component to the State’s emergency response plan, and as such, are required to provide several functions deemed central to the continued functioning of the communities through April 15th (this extends our initial closure announcement period, which had school resuming on April 14th). The three required elements for schools include the following:

Food/Nutrition: The district has committed to providing both breakfast and lunch to any student in our district; no student is excluded from this service. Meals may either be picked up at the Roberts Street Cafeteria, or they are being distributed along the established bus routes within the district. **Pickup and delivery will continue next week (Monday, April 6 - Thursday, April 9). Friday’s meals will be delivered and available for pickup from 9:30am-12:30pm on Thursday, as Friday is a holiday.** If you have questions about how to receive meals, please contact our Transportation Office to make arrangements. Through the first nine days of our revamped food service program, 11,810 total meals have been served by our food service and transportation staff. They are doing unbelievable work!

Continuity of Learning: While learning certainly has to look different that it did prior to the shutdown, it is important that learning continues for our students. Our instructional staff has been working diligently to create meaningful learning opportunities for our students, and to ensure that students are able to stay connected to their teachers. Every student/parent will be contacted on a weekly basis at least once through phone contact to see how everything is going. This personal contact is crucial during this time of social separation and isolation. Frequently, there will be additional communication through a variety of methods, including contact through email, video, etc. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our teachers, counselors and administrators with any questions about your child’s academic program.

Please note that schools are required to be in session for 180 days each academic year. This week, the State Education Department issued additional guidance explaining how the school calendar would be impacted by the shutdown. Clarity on this issue was provided by Dan Fuller, Deputy Secretary for Education to Governor Cuomo. Fuller confirmed that **districts are required to provide continuity of learning (continued instruction) each day of the closure through April 15th, including the week that was previously considered Spring Break.** Failure to provide continuing services in any of the mandated and “essential” functions would result in a loss of state aid. This is not a situation unique to Canastota; all districts in the state are being held to this requirement.

Given this reality, Canastota will continue to provide instruction next week. In fact, distribution of new materials will be available to students at designated times on both Wednesday and Thursday of next week (Please see distribution times for each building below). We realize that this announcement represents a change of plans for some of our staff members and our families and appreciate your patience and understanding. We will continue to work with all members of our school family to make the best of the perpetually changing circumstances we are faced with.

One of the main questions we've received regarding continuing learning has to do with how grading and assessment is being handled. Please be assured that we are committed to dealing with this issue in a reasonable fashion, and in a way that allows us to continue to provide learning opportunities and feedback to students. Building principals will be outlining what our procedure will be moving forward in more specific detail for both the remainder of the 3rd marking period and, eventually, for the final marking period of the year.

Child Care for Health Care/EMS Workers: Districts throughout the region are working with local organizations to make sure that the children of healthcare/emergency responders have an opportunity to access childcare. Canastota has distributed this information via the School Messenger notification system, and will continue to do so on a weekly basis. We are thankful to all of those individuals who are working on the front lines of this crisis.

As you can see, the work at school is ongoing, albeit in a different form than we are used to. We will continue to do everything we can to support our students and the entire school community during this period of uncertainty. In an attempt to keep you informed of developments impacting the school, we will be providing video messages every week and posting them on our website to ensure that critical information is accessible to the school community. We are extremely appreciative of the outpouring of support from our community, and thank you for everything you do to support our school. Please stay safe, and remember that together we will get through this tough period and emerge stronger than ever.

Sincerely,

Shawn D. Bissetta

Superintendent of Schools

PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 FOR PICKUP SCHEDULES

Pick Up Schedules for Instructional Materials

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| Peterboro Street Elementary School Wednesday, April 8, 2020 | 9am-10am | Pre-K packet/Gertrude Hawk pick up |
| | 10am-11am | Kindergarten packet/Gertrude Hawk pick up |
| | 11am-12pm | First Grade packet/Gertrude Hawk pick up |
| | 2pm-3pm | Open time for packet/Gertrude Hawk pick up |
| Thursday, April 9, 2020 | 6pm-7pm | Open time for packet/Gertrude Hawk pick up |

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| South Side Elementary School Wednesday, April 8, 2020 | 10am-11am | 2nd Grade packet and Chromebook pick up /Gertrude Hawk pick up |
| | 11am-12pm | 3rd Grade packet and Chromebook pick up /Gertrude Hawk pick up |
| | 2pm-3pm | Open time for packet/Gertrude Hawk pick up |
| Thursday, April 9, 2020 | 6pm-7pm | Open time for packet/Gertrude Hawk pick up |

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| Roberts Street Elementary School Wednesday & Thursday April 8 & 9 | 8:30am-1pm | 4th-6th Grade materials and Chromebook Pick up Location: HS Cafeteria |
| Thursday, April 9, 2020 | 6pm-7pm | Open time for pickup in the HS Cafeteria |

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| Junior/Senior High School Wednesday, April 8, 2020 | 10am-12pm | Grades 7-9 in the Main Office |
| Thursday, April 9, 2020 | 10am-12pm 6pm-7pm | Grades 10-12 in the Main Office Grades 7-12 open time for pickup in the Main office |