

Dear Greece Central Community:

I hope this weekly update finds you healthy and well. As you may have gathered, schools will not reopen next week. As we come to terms with the reality that it may be some time before life gets back to normal, I am happy that we are all finding new ways to stay connected and continue to learn and grow.

Many of you accepted my challenge this week and submitted short videos or photos of the creative ways you're making connections and continuing to be kind while practicing social distancing. I am so grateful for your ingenuity, compassion, thoughtfulness, and humor. (More on that in the briefs section below.)

Greece teachers, administrators and support staff members continue to support students and families in this time of great need. We want to know what you think of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and what more we can do to better support you in the future. Please read the brief below to learn more about the Thoughtexchange platform we are using to gather feedback. Please take some time this week to share your thoughts.

In closing, I want to say how proud I am to be your superintendent. Our Greece community is doing what it does best — taking care of each other and persevering through difficulties. I am constantly reminded of why Greece is a great place to live, work, learn, and be alone *together*.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Graupman
Superintendent of Schools

PLEASE NOTE:

Items outlined below are subject to change.

Schools Are Closed Next Week and 'Spring Break' Week

We do not know when Greece Schools will reopen, but they will remain closed next week, March 30-April 3, and until further notice. We will continue to treat the week of April 6-10 as "spring break" meaning students will not have new Learning From Home assignments that week.

Please remember that students and families cannot access classrooms and common spaces during the closure. The only spaces that remain open are the cafeteria entrances at the food distribution locations between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. weekdays. We will provide weekly closure updates on Fridays.

Students Should Continue 'Learning From Home'

Students should continue to access our [Learning From Home resource website](#).

Please check in regularly for updates. For students without internet access, paper resources are available every Friday at the food distribution sites between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. **New this week** — paper packets for high school students in a variety of subject areas. These resources are not meant to be in addition to the online assignments, they are an alternative for those without internet access. If you are unable to pick up a packet during the food distribution hours, you can swing by Odyssey Academy, 750 Maiden Lane, at any time. Grade level packets are always available in the purple Little Free Library Box located in the rear parking lot in front of Door #5. We're always looking for ways to better serve you so please [click here](#) to

share your thoughts about the Learning From Home resources.

Learning From Home Options for K-2 Students

The district has not provided take-home devices, like Chromebooks, for students in kindergarten through second grade. Our youngest learners have brought these devices home in the past and this shift to learning at home did not give us time to adequately prepare. There are still a lot of resources available to keep students engaged and actively learning in developmentally appropriate ways. During this period of school closure, we ask that parents or caregivers guide students through the lessons shared on the [Learning From Home Resource](#). For those individuals without ready access to a computer, tablet, or WiFi at home, paper packets are available for all grade levels, including K-2, every Friday at the food distribution sites between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. If you are unable to pick up a packet during the food distribution hours, you can swing by Odyssey Academy, 750 Maiden Lane, at any time and grab a packet from the Little Free Library box located in the rear parking lot in front of Door #5. We will continue to evaluate our instructional continuity plan and make adjustments as necessary.

Feedback Sought on the District's COVID-19 Response

The Greece Central School District wants to know what you think of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic — what are we doing well and what we can do to better support our students, staff and families in the future. We are using an online platform called Thoughtexchange to gather feedback. This exchange is confidential. Your thoughts will be shared with other participants, but not your identity. You will see and rate the thoughts that others have provided based on how much you agree/disagree or how important you feel the ideas are. **The exchange will be open until noon on April 2** so you can share

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and rate thoughts any time between now and then. [Click here](#) to learn more and provide feedback. An email invitation will also be sent early next week.

Superintendents Connection Challenge 'Accepted' By Many

Earlier this week, Superintendent Kathleen Graupman issued a [video challenge](#) for the entire Greece community to share the unique ways they are staying connected and being kind even though we can't be together. Dozens of people accepted the challenge and shared videos and social media posts showing how they are staying connected and remaining positive. [Click here](#) to see some of the awesome ways our students, families and staff are supporting each other. Please continue to share your videos and photos with us by tagging us on Twitter @GCSDSuper and @Greece-Central, or messaging Greece Central Schools on Facebook, or by sending an email to community.information@greececsd.org.

Grades 3-8 State Assessments Cancelled

The New York State (NYS) Education Department has announced that all elementary- and intermediate-level state assessments have been cancelled for the 2019-20 school year. This includes: NYS Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Test; NYS Grades 3-8 Mathematics Test; NYS Grade 4 Science Test; NYS Grade 8 Science Test; NYS English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) in Grades K-12; and NYS Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) for students with severe cognitive disabilities in Grades 3-8 and high school. **There is no update on Regents Exams at this time.**

AP Exams Will Be Offered This Year But the Timeline, Format Has Changed

School districts learned this week that students currently enrolled in Advanced Placement classes will still be able to take their exams, but the exams will be offered online in April and only cover material

taught through mid-March. A full exam schedule is expected by April 3. College Board has provided an extensive Q & A for parents and staff. Please [click here](#) for more information. We will share the full AP exam schedule in next week's update.

Virtual Board of Education Meeting on March 31

The Greece Board of Education will hold a virtual meeting at 6 p.m. on March 31. The meeting will air in real time on Jazz Radio 90.1. [Click here](#) to listen live.

District Implements Temporary Online Registration, Shared Housing Application Process

While schools are temporarily closed, Greece Central Schools have adjusted registration practices. We are not currently scheduling in-person registration appointments. Registration packets can be picked up at Door #5 at Odyssey Academy, 750 Maiden Lane, weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The registration documents can also be found by [clicking here](#). If you are filing for shared housing, please complete and submit this [shared housing document](#). With questions, please call (585) 966-2230 and leave a message for the District Registrar.

6-12 Parents Can Now Update Contact Information Online

Did you recently change your phone number or email address? We want to stay in touch with you during this period of school closure. Since staff are currently working from home, we have adjusted our parent/guardian contact information practices. At all grade levels you can still call or email any contact information changes to school building staff. Parents of students in grades 6-12 can also now change any phone numbers or email addresses (with the exception of student email) right in the Infinite Campus parent portal. (Elementary school parents do not have access to the parent portal.) To access this new feature, [login to the parent portal](#), select "more" on the bottom left side then select "address information" or "family information" to find the fields

you are requesting to be changed. **Please note:** You cannot change home address information. This must be done by school staff so please call or email them if your address changes.

NYS Asks Districts to Survey Childcare Needs of Health Care Workers, Emergency Responders

Are you a health care worker or first responder in need of childcare? In response to New York State Education Department guidance regarding school closures due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the Greece Central School District has developed [this three-question survey](#) to identify the childcare needs of essential health care workers and first responders. **Please submit your answers by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1** so we can determine how many families need assistance.

Free Chromebook Tech Support Available 3/30, 4/1, and 4/3

Students in grades 3-12 who need a district Chromebook or support with their existing Chromebook can visit our drive-through "Tech Spot" in the rear parking lot of Odyssey Academy from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Monday, March 30; Wednesday, April 1; and Friday, April 3. We will evaluate the hours of operation each week based on need and communicate any changes as part of this weekly update. **Please note:** students in kindergarten through grade 2 are not issued take-home devices, like Chromebooks.

Food Distribution Sites Open Weekdays From 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

FREE grab and go meals are being served weekdays from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Autumn Lane Elementary School, 2089 Maiden Lane; Lakeshore Elementary School, 1200 Latta Road; Longridge Elementary School, 190 Longridge Avenue; West Ridge Elementary School; 1010 English Road; and Odyssey Academy, 750 Maiden Lane. Pick up a hot lunch and breakfast for the following day.