

New Hartford Central School District
33 Oxford Road
New Hartford, NY 13413

November 16, 2020

Dear New Hartford School Community:

I am writing to share with you important information if events require that our district shifts its focus to fully remote instruction during the next wave of this pandemic.

A shift to fully remote instruction would most likely be prompted by two main scenarios. First, Governor Cuomo may mandate that school districts such as ours suspend in-person instruction in response to rising COVID-19 infections at the local, state, or national level. In this case, our district will follow the guidelines set forth by New York State, Oneida County, and our local Department of Health (DOH). Our district would remain fully remote until it is officially deemed safe to reopen. Second, our district may shift from in-person hybrid instruction to fully remote instruction for all students because of significant factors solely affecting our district. Positive cases of COVID-19 within the district require coordination with the DOH to conduct timely contact tracing. The district also considers how a positive case may impact shared faculty throughout the district as well as educational placements outside of the district.

In the event that we shift to fully remote instruction, instruction will be held daily, five days a week. Student enrollment by cohort will be suspended until we return to the hybrid learning model. Teachers will use Zoom to deliver live video instruction, and Google Classroom to manage learning materials and post assignments. Students are asked to follow the guidance of their classroom teacher(s) for their daily schedule. Teachers will provide students and their families with specific schedules that include core curriculum as well as special areas of instruction (e.g., art, music, physical education, and library). Service providers (e.g., speech, OT, and PT) will be in contact with students to continue remote sessions to the greatest extent possible.

For elementary students, this shift to fully remote instruction means that they will revert to a schedule and method of instruction with which they began the school year. For secondary students, this shift to fully remote instruction means that students will now attend remote classes each day in much the same manner they have been attending class on their fully remote days on the hybrid schedule. Please see the entire plans for [grades K-6](#) and [7-12](#) instruction on

our website. The district will communicate any instructional shifts on our school website, on our social media pages, by email, and via text. Our district is striving to maintain as much purposeful interaction between students and teachers as possible.

The district is also striving to do its part to keep everyone as safe as possible during this stage of the pandemic. I ask that you continue to follow state and local guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19, as well as adhere to the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Please visit our website for direct information regarding COVID-19, and contact your healthcare provider if you or someone in your household exhibits COVID-19 symptoms.

Once again, thank you for your support during this next phase in instruction. Our top priority continues to be the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. While the educational environment may change yet again, we will continue to engage students so that they may learn, succeed, and be valued.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Nole

Robert J. Nole
Superintendent of Schools