



NORTH BELLMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

2616 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, NY 11710

Phone: (516) 992-3000 • Business Office Fax: (516) 992-3019 • Superintendent Fax: (516) 992-3020

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March 13, 2020

Dear North Bellmore Families, Faculty & Staff,

The District continues to monitor the most recent developments pertaining to 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). While at this time, we do not have a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the District, we understand the last several weeks have been extremely challenging and stressful for our community members.

At this time, we are going to close school on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17, 2020 to implement further social distancing. We hope that the two days will serve as a well-needed pause and give the NYS Governor and the NYS Education Department more time to provide school districts with further guidance and clarification on moving forward. The District administration will continue to work closely with the Department of Health and the NYS Education Department to assess and reevaluate the additional guidance.

In my prior communications, I have stated the authority to close schools has resided with the NYS Education Department and Department of Health. This afternoon Governor Cuomo held a press conference to update the residents of NYS regarding the facts related to COVID-19 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oN6H4J32fz4>, and announced the transference of authority to close schools to local school districts; however, when not directed to close, the District must utilize snow and/or vacation days to implement such a closure. We are hopeful that the guidance from the NYS Education Department, expected this afternoon, will clarify the regulations.

The District will contact families on Tuesday, March 17, to provide an update as to whether any extension of the closure is required.

With the safety of the community in mind,

Marie L. Testa

Superintendent of Schools