



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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 2, 2020

Nina Lanci
President

Dear North Bellmore Families, Faculty and Staff,

John Ferrara
Vice President

I wanted to send an update related to recent Executive Orders from the Governor that alter our current calendar and the impact it has on school closure, spring recess, budget vote and elections.

Melissa Cmar-Grote

Rosemarie Corless

Jo-Ann Erhard

In order to be in compliance with Executive Order 202.11, which extends the school closure period to April 15, and in order to meet the 180 day waiver criteria for state aid, the district will continue to offer meals, provide childcare for first responders and healthcare workers, and continue with the district’s learning plan during the school closure. As a result, the scheduled spring recess (April 9- April 17) has been cancelled and the "Continuity of Learning" plan will continue during this time.

Marie L. Testa
Superintendent of Schools

Carol A. Eskew
Deputy Superintendent

We understand that much of spring recess includes days of religious observance. As all of the Bellmore/Merrick component school districts respect the observance of religious holidays, there is flexibility relative to assignments for those students and families who choose to observe. Should your child be unable to complete the daily assignments due to religious observance, it is entirely understandable.

Janet Pollitt
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

An additional part of the continuity plan is the availability of Emergency Child Care for qualifying families. The North Bellmore School District is participating in a countywide plan to provide child care through SCOPE at locations throughout the county. The provisions for who qualifies for this program are set by New York State. Details can be found on the SCOPE website: <https://www.scopeonline.us/scope-emergency-child-care/>. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services is also asking school districts to send the following link to a survey about child care needs to all families: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3HSNNYJ>. Please know that families in need of additional assistance for any reason should email their school principals. As always, our staff is here to support our students and their families through this crisis.

Jacqueline Rehak
Assistant Superintendent for Business

In addition, New York State has determined that school district Board of Education and budget votes will be postponed until after June 1, 2020. Therefore, the vote scheduled for May 19, 2020, is postponed and we will inform you when a new date has been set. This is a very fluid situation and in some cases, information changes daily. I expect that we will receive more information about whether or not there will be an extension of further school closures before April 15. This additional information may provide clarity about



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the calendar for the remainder of the year. It is highly unlikely that the Governor will allow the re-opening of schools on April 15. We will adjust our district plans when the next Governor's order is released and communicate that information to you promptly.

The wrath of this pandemic is relentless as many of our community members have so unfortunately experienced. I send my deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones and/or friends. I am grateful to the North Bellmore community for uniting as we work together to manage home learning and working remotely; I understand striking a balance is nearly impossible. I appreciate the feedback I have received from parents and will continue to work with North Bellmore's talented and devoted teachers and administrators to provide meaningful learning experiences and social and emotional support.

I want to thank you for your understanding, flexibility and support during this situation. I wish you continued health.

Sincerely,

Marie L. Testa

Superintendent of Schools