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December 9, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the holiday season approaches, we have been reflecting on the safest way to educate your children while maintaining the health of all students and staff on campus. We continue to follow the guidance of the New York State Education Department and state and local health authorities, and maintain a high level of awareness and communication for issues of concern.

Day Students: Due to the rise of infection rates in our surrounding communities, as well as the projected surge with the holidays, it has been decided that after the upcoming break, we will transition to remote instruction for all day students from January 4 through January 8 and resume in-person instruction on Monday, January 11th. We recognize that this plan poses a disruption, but we believe this course of action is important to reduce risk and prioritize health and safety, both within the school community and in the many communities that we are all a part.

Residential Students: Our residential students will return to classes in person on January 4th and stay in their classroom cohorts, as they await their COVID-19 test results for those who were on visits.

All students have been practicing how to utilize Google Classroom and our on-line learning tools throughout this school year to minimize any struggles with distance-learning. We will continue to prepare our students in the coming days to assist with this temporary transition.

Each day student who is remote for the week will receive a schedule that they will follow for the distance-learning week. The schedule will outline times they will receive direct instruction via Zoom, when they will have independent work, and when they will receive related services, if applicable.

Distance-learning can be challenging for students, their parents and the staff. Everyone's efforts, collaboration and dedication is deeply appreciated as we work together to keep our community healthy and safe. We truly believe that our students belong in school and look forward to safely resuming in-person teaching for all students on January 11th.

If you need a device for remote learning to be sent home with your student to use for the week, please communicate that with your child's classroom teacher and social worker prior to the break.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jerry Newell
School Principal