Lewiston-Porter Central School District

Aiming Higher

Dear Lewiston-Porter Parents, Students, Staff, and Community:

Welcome Back
Happy New Year! I think we're all glad to put 2020 behind us. The end to this 2020-21 school year is showing positive light, but we will have to weather the storm as we move through the winter months.

COVID-19 Notification Process
Over the winter recess, we were notified by the NYS Department of Health and the Niagara County Department of Health of COVID-19 positive members of our school community as well as close contacts. In each instance, we worked with the County Health Department to make appropriate notifications to staff, students, and families. Since our return this week we have received notification of positive cases and again appropriate notification protocols have been initiated. The notification process is a very fluid one, sometimes the district receives information regarding these cases before the NYSDOH or NCDOH. In other instances, the County has information prior to the district receiving notification. The bottom line is when we know as a district, we take action and send a notification to our staff and our community to keep everyone informed.

Just this week two neighboring school districts made the decision to close a building or buildings due to the inability to maintain instruction and supervision of students as a result of staff quarantines or isolations. As I have stated and continued to state, we will remain open in our hybrid instructional model unless we are unable to meet safety protocols for our buildings or are unable to meet the instructional needs of our students. To this point that has not been the case; we have been able to meet both of these key criteria. We made the decision to close a building or grade level within a building in the fall because we were, at that time, just beginning to learn and understand how the virus was impacting schools. As our knowledge has grown, so has our ability to manage the process and keep our schools open. If I need to make the decision to close a school or the entire district for the safety and well being of students and staff, I will not hesitate to do so. Right now, however, we are managing the process and working through the cases enabling the district to remain open for students in the hybrid model.

January Regents Exams
Just a quick reminder that the January Regents exams have been canceled. Students at the high school will remain in attendance in the hybrid model the week of January 25th. Midterm assessments will be developed at both the high school and middle school through classroom teachers. Please watch for details from both schools in the coming weeks.

Paul J. Casseri | Superintendent of Schools
4061 Creek Road, Youngstown, NY 14174
Phone 716-286-7266 | Fax: 716-286-7859 | Email: pcasseri@lew-port.com

Athletics
Boys swimming and boys and girls bowling will begin on Tuesday, January 19th (Monday, January 18th is Martin Luther King Day). Please watch for details from our Athletic Director, Mr. Halgash, regarding tryouts and practice schedules for both programs. As of today, we do not have any official word on basketball, hockey, wrestling, or cheerleading. The governor and the New State Athletic Council have stated that a decision on these programs is forthcoming.

COVID-19 Vaccine
The vaccination process for district medical and behavioral health professionals began this week. These employees are making appointments with the County and getting their vaccine. All K-12 school staff is in the next group scheduled to receive the vaccine. We are told by the County that the process could begin as early as the end of January or February. I'm hopeful that a significant number of our employees will make the decision to vaccinate. As we have been told from federal, state, and local governmental and medical professionals, the vaccine is safe and the vaccination process is our path back to normalcy. I will be the first in line when that time comes. We have not yet heard when the vaccine will be available for the general public and students.

Big game tomorrow! Go Bills!

All the best,

Paul J. Casseri,
Superintendent of Schools

Paul J. Casseri | Superintendent of Schools
4061 Creek Road, Youngstown, NY 14174
Phone 716-286-7266 | Fax: 716-286-7859 | Email: pcasseri@lew-port.com