



Jeremy P. Palotti, Superintendent  
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Dear Parents and Guardians:

September 25, 2020

We have our first few weeks in the books on the 2020-21 school year, some fall sports started practices this week, and we are beginning to hit our stride with our current modified schedule. As mentioned in previous letters, the district is grateful for the commitment of families and the community as we work through inconvenient scheduling and requirements. Despite the inconveniences, these are all very important and very necessary to keep our kids physically here in school. We can't stress more the importance of routine handwashing, maintaining social distancing practices, and the wearing of face coverings when distancing can't be maintained. Our kids have been great at this and we as adults need to do the same when at our schools and athletic contests.

This past week, Steuben County has experienced a very large number of positive COVID-19 cases. While most of these are directly related to a nursing facility, the arms of this go beyond the nursing home into various communities across the region and even connected to some of the schools within the county. Just this week we have witnessed area schools closing for at least a day to ensure adequate contact tracing and to clean. While we are proud of our reopening and are confident in the safety protocols that are in place, we are keenly aware that cases and potential closures could occur in Hornell at any moment. With that in mind, our plan given a school closure connected to COVID-19 would be an automatic and immediate shift to remote learning. In the event that there is an automatic switch to remote learning, students should follow their Wednesday schedule for remote learning with their teachers.

In the event there is a closure, please know that there is not an exact script for us to follow. Decisions will be made with direct consultation with the County Department of Health and based on their recommendations. Decisions on if we close will be based on if there is a case connected to the school, what school, who had contact with them, how many people could have been exposed, the date when an exposure occurred, what the infection rate in the community is looking like, along with a whole host of other details. If and when this occurs, we will be as quick as possible to communicate with you as much as information as we can provide to help you plan. In most cases, this will be in the form of a series of communication messages as we move through the various steps of closure, switch to remote learning and eventual return to in-person instruction.

With all of this, we are committed and prepared to provide the children of the Hornell City School District with the best education possible regardless of whether it is inside our walls, on Zoom, Google Classroom, or Class Dojo. We knew going into this year that we may go between in-person instruction and remote learning and our opening plan has prepared us for this possibility. While we want our kids here as much as possible, we are ready should a shift have to occur.

Please remain in communication with your child's teachers to help stay current and encourage your child to bring needed materials back and forth to school each day. We thank you all in advance for helping your child understand and follow the health protocols that are in place. Together we will work through this pandemic and soon enough we will return to a more typical school setting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.P. Palotti', written over the printed name.

Jeremy P. Palotti  
Superintendent



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## **Student Full Remote Schedule**

**The schedule below would be followed the first day in the event of a short term school building closure:**

*\*If school buildings are closed for an extended period of time, an updated schedule will be provided by each building*

**3PK:** Teachers will provide materials and resources for students on Class Dojo by 8:00 on the day of the closure.

**North Hornell Elementary School:** Follow Wednesday Schedule for Zoom Meetings, remote work starting at 8:00 am, depending on the previously arranged schedule. Families should check Class Dojo for learning videos and for other work after 7:30 am on the day the school building is closed. Teachers will provide updates through DoJo.

**Bryant Elementary School:** Follow Wednesday schedule for Zoom Meetings, remote work starting at 9:00 AM for 2nd grade and 10:00 for 3rd grade. Three recorded videos for ELA, Math and Writing are available after 8:00 AM. For 2nd grade, any Wednesday remote resources will be included in the extension packet sent Monday or Tuesday. Please check the class Dojo account of your child's teacher for updates.

**Intermediate School:** Follow the typical Wednesday schedule. All other work will be posted to Google Classroom by 8:00 am

**High School:** Follow the typical Wednesday period by period bell schedule with first period beginning at 8:50 am. All other work will be posted to Google Classroom by 9:00 am.