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March 15, 2020

To the NY Mills Union Free School District Community:

This weekend we have been processing the message from the Oneida County Executive regarding school closings. Administration, faculty and staff have begun the work of planning and providing instruction and support to students during this time. Faculty and staff will be working this week to develop plans and create resources that may be a blend of hard-copy, Google Classroom and web-based lessons.

We will also be arranging for students to pick up textbooks, etc. from lockers, providing devices for students lacking access at home and arranging for meals for those who depend on school breakfast and/or lunch. On Monday, we will be calling families to determine what your needs are regarding devices and food service needs. This information from you will be vital in moving forward with our plans. Beginning Tuesday, the cafeteria will be open from 11:00-12:30 for a bagged lunch. We are working on providing other sites for our students to get lunch and we will communicate that to you as we know more.

Please stress with your children the importance of maintaining a schedule to complete assignments and maintain a healthy mind and attitude during this stressful time and to maintain academic progress. As assignments are completed and submitted via Google classroom, email or hardcopy, feedback will be provided by teachers regarding their progress.

As more details become available we will share it via school messenger, webpage and email. The school will be accessible beginning Tuesday to pick up books, workbooks and belongings from lockers and classrooms. PLEASE refrain from attempting to enter the building on Monday to allow maintenance personnel the ability to sanitize all surfaces and to allow our teachers to begin the work of planning for instruction in different modalities.

The main offices will be reachable with questions and concerns during the closure. Your children's teachers will be accessible via email during the school closing period. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us. As always, the health and safety of our students, their families and our staff is vitally important. By working together, we will strive to meet the social and instructional needs of all of our students. Again, this is a very fluid situation that puts all of us in uncharted territory and we must work together to make progress as we navigate this process.

Respectfully,  
Joanne Shelmidine, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools