



May 5, 2020

5/5/2020 COVID-19 Updates

No New Cases of COVID-19 Today

Chautauqua County statistics:

- 37 confirmed cases,
- 4 active cases - continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law;
- 29 recovered cases;
- 4 deaths;
- 65 cases under quarantine/isolation orders by the Public Health Director and being monitored. Not all of those being monitored are confirmed to have COVID-19 but have either shown symptoms, are awaiting results, or have risk factors; and
- 1044 negative test results to date.

COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSINGS: TEACHERS SOLVING PROBLEMS = A+

The shoe is on the other foot. Usually the teacher asks the student to come up with the answer, but when faced with school building closures, teachers have had to think outside the box to answer tough questions in this unprecedented time.

- How do I shift to online learning?
- How do I connect with all my students?
- How do I keep students engaged and offer a rich experience without standing next to the student?
- How do I adjust my expectations?
- How do I make peace with trial and error?
- How do I work with parents and caregivers, as they are going to be playing a more hands-on role in education?

“Extraordinary times call for extraordinary actions and the creativity and dedication of our educators has been nothing short of extraordinary,” said Christine Schuyler, County Director of Health and Human Services. “Schools, the people – not the buildings, are essential to the health and well-being of all children and we salute you during National Teacher Appreciation Week and always.”

“As a former teacher for nearly 25 years, I know firsthand the amazing men and women here in Chautauqua County that give of themselves tirelessly to their students,” said PJ Wendel, Chautauqua County Executive. “The end of the school year was abrupt and hearts were broken, but the abilities of these professionals to adapt and overcome and learn a new means of instruction is beyond belief. To all the teachers throughout Chautauqua

County, ANYONE who teaches in anyway, this THANK YOU is for you!"

Here are comments from two local teachers addressing how they are managing the struggles and pleasures of distance learning:

As a third grade teacher, the past two months have had many struggles as you can imagine, but also joys! My students have done so well with this new way of learning, and their parents and caregivers have really "stepped-up" with taking on this new role of helping me educate their children from afar. I am also very thankful for technology during this time, as it has helped me immensely in reaching my students. . . I post a daily video on our Facebook page outlining the day's tasks, as well as a daily read-aloud for them to listen to and follow along. We also do weekly Zoom meetings to check in and see how everyone is doing. Distance-learning is rough, but with my resilient group of kiddos I think we are all going to be just fine! -JoAnn Liffner, 3rd Grade Teacher, Sherman Central School.

As a science teacher, a struggle that I've had to deal with is not being able to do hands-on labs and activities with my students. It is also difficult to deal with the inequity of students' home situations when giving them assignments. The joys of this situation is connecting with my students on Zoom meetings, and seeing them connect with each other during that time. -Lennart Liffner Jr., 7-12 Science Teacher, Sherman Central School

No school? Is this reality? How are kids feeling about the freedom from attendance? What do they have to say about the change in learning environment? Here are some comments from Chautauqua County students:

Parker, age 8 says, *"It's easier to go to school and do work than sit at home and do work."*

Quinn, age 9 says, *"Even though I miss my friends, I like doing school work at home."*

Dakoda from Bemus Point Elementary says, *"I never thought I would be saying this, but I miss school!"*

Steele, kindergartener, says, *"It is hard to hear my mom teaching me, because my sister is always yelling."*

Another kindergartener from Chautauqua Lake Central School says, *"I really miss my teacher, and I miss seeing my friends."*

What about parents? How are they feeling about this change in school and learning routine?

Vicki Seiberg, parent from Chautauqua Lake Central School District, says, *"Kudos to all of the teachers in this world! I know I have a new found respect for what they do each and every day with my children. This pandemic has created a not-so ideal learning environment for kids, not to mention the teachers in this world. But . . . they have adapted to this new way of teaching and for the most part have succeeded at it . . . thank goodness! If you have ever doubted the ability of your child's teacher before this, you will for sure have a whole new found respect for them now and hopefully will appreciate them even more."*

Kassandra Schwerk, parent from Southwestern Central School District, states, *"I think it can be a little challenging to get my kids on a schedule for school daily. But I feel we are doing our best and making the best of our situation. I personally cannot thank our teachers enough for all they're doing for our kids. I appreciate them daily for trying to help keep them on track with their learning. My kids had a hard time with it all. They are really missing their friends, teachers and learning in a classroom environment. We can only learn from all this and be grateful and thankful. We will continue to do our best to take all this day-by-day."*

Julie Apperson, parent from Bemus Point Central School District, states, *"We are so appreciative of the efforts of our teachers at Bemus Point Elementary. They have gone the extra mile to keep parents up to date, ensure students have the tools and resources they need. They continue to engage and make learning fun. Everyone has been great about thinking outside of the box! We as parents have even more respect for teachers right now!"*

Jenny Rohlin, parent from Chautauqua Lake Central School District and Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center, says, *"Who knew that sitting with a child while they sound out letters, write words, learn to read and count to 100 would be challenging? The patience this requires alone is not for the faint hearted. To encourage independence and build confidence (while refraining from drinking or using choice words) during these activities, in addition to teaching the basics skills- forget it! My family is so incredibly grateful for our teachers and what they do for our children. In addition, The Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center teachers have continued to be incredibly helpful in teaching my children and assisting with completion of assignments during this time away from school. Thank you to all the teachers for all you do!"*

Teachers, we say you have aced it! You are solving the ever-changing problems, and you are doing it with style. Thank you for going back to the drawing board and giving Chautauqua County kids your best. We appreciate you--today and always!

Link to Chautauqua County COVID-19 Map:

<https://chautauquacounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/012d07321ad6415c8cf17c4f673643c9>

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