March 17, 2020

The Governor of New York via Executive Order 202.4 has ordered the closure of all schools within the state to help curtail the spread of the COVID-19. Accordingly, please be advised that schools are officially closed, effective March 18, 2020. All teachers, teacher assistants, teacher aides, and school based clerical staff are directed not to report to school until April 20, 2020.

Further, Executive Order 202.4 clearly states that school districts shall develop a plan for alternative instructional options, distribution and availability of meals, and child care. Therefore, it is critical that teachers continue to provide alternative instructional options to students to the extent you are able.

Teachers have always been the core strength of our District in times of need and crisis; and, teachers have always distinguished themselves as remarkable protectors of children and advocates for their learning. As Buffalo faces this historic global Coronavirus challenge, we implore our esteemed educators to continue being our core strength—not just ours as a District—but the core strength that every child is relying upon at this time. We need our teachers as never before and ask for your best effort in helping to provide continuity in the education of your students during this time. Accordingly, please follow these important guidelines during this period of closure.

- Please bring home your electronic devices.
- The District and the Federation shall partner to provide alternative instructional options for students throughout this period of school closure during regularly scheduled school days.
- Teachers shall maintain contacts via electronic means with students enrolled in their class or in any related services on an as needed basis. If needed, the District shall provide support to track contacts with students should we be required to do so by the State.
- Teachers shall check Schoology accounts and respond to emails regularly and as needed during the school day during this period of school closure.
- Wherever possible and as needed, teachers and SST Staff who teach or work with students with IEPs, 504s, safety plans, or other students in need of intense mental health services shall coordinate with supervisors and team members to contact students and families to provide alternative instructional options.
- During this period of school closure, teachers of high school seniors shall provide the alternative instructional options necessary so that the students may remain on track to graduate.
- Teachers may voluntarily participate in professional development via electronic means during this period of school closure.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kriner Cash
Superintendent of Schools

“Putting Children and Families First to Ensure High Academic Achievement for All”