

SCHOOL MESSENGER (ROBO CALL) COMMUNICATIONS
2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

March 16, 2021

Return to Full Day Instruction
Parent Meeting

Good afternoon. This is a message from superintendent Margo Martin with important information related to our return to full day of in-person instruction planning process. In order to provide families with more detailed information on what a return to a full day of school might look like, we will be holding a Parent Information Night for both GES and the Jr-Sr High on Wednesday, **March 17th** via zoom meetings. The **GES presentation will begin at 5:30pm** and the **Jr-Sr High meeting will begin at 6:30pm**. Parents can access the link at the bottom of this robocall email, or by going to our webpage. Both presentations will include information on student daily schedules, transportation and food service updates, and answers to FAQs that resulted from the parent survey we sent out last week.

Both the elementary and jr.-sr. high meetings will be recorded in case you are unable to attend the meeting live. The recorded version of the meeting will be on our website by noon on March 18th.

Also, I would like to make all parents aware that the Cayuga Medical Center Attestation application has been updated to reflect questions related to the impact of vaccinations. Please be aware that starting tomorrow, March 17th, you will see different questions listed in the application.

I hope you all are enjoying the transition to warmer weather and snow melting off the ground! Should you have any questions regarding this email, please contact your child's building principal.

GES Parent Information Meeting Night - March 17th at 5:30pm - [Click HERE](#).

Jr-Sr High Parent Information Meeting Night - March 17th at 6:30pm - [Click HERE](#).

March 8, 2021

Full Day Instruction Parent Survey

Good afternoon. This is a message from Margo Martin, superintendent of Groton Central School District.

As has been the case with this entire pandemic, the Groton School District continues to try and make sound decisions around our instructional model that places the needs of our students as our first priority, while balancing that with the safety and well-being of our entire community. Last week, superintendents from the region met with Frank Kruppa, director of Tompkins County Department of Health, to discuss the possibility of bringing students back full time, even if that meant moving the social distancing from 6' to 3', as long as face coverings are being worn at all times. Per Mr. Kruppa, the Department of Health understands the importance of each community weighing the viability of this decision with the need to get students back in school. Research has shown most students are performing better with in-person instruction where immediate feedback from the classroom teacher can be provided.

In light of the fact the Tompkins County Covid positive case rate is now at .17%, and that over 70% of our instructional faculty and staff have been vaccinated, the Groton CSD is considering moving forward with a return to full-day classes for our in-person students in grades UPK-12. We will continue to offer a remote learning model to those families that are not comfortable with having their child return to school at this time. We value community input as we consider this step forward in return to "normal" operations within the school system. While we are excited to return to what we know, we must have stakeholder input to do this well. Please see below for the link to a parent presentation on a draft proposal for returning full time. In addition, there is a link to a Parent survey form, to be completed AFTER you read through the presentation. We will also have the link to both the presentation and the survey on the front page of our website.

Because we are in a time crunch for planning purposes, we ask that all surveys be submitted to us by Friday, March 12th, at noon. Thank you for your continued support of our district!

[Return To Full Day - Parent Presentation](#)

[Return to Full Day - Parent Survey](#)

January 25, 2021

Good morning. This message is from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. This morning we received confirmation from the Cayuga County Department of Health that two students at the Groton Elementary School building tested positive for COVID. The students are from the same household and had already been in a precautionary quarantine. Therefore, the DOH has determined there is no need for contact tracing as neither child was in school for the 48 hours leading up to testing positive and/or development of symptoms.

On another note, I wanted to take this time to inform you that although the governor has lifted the moratorium on high-risk winter sports including basketball and wrestling as of February 1st, 2021, he has made it clear the final approval to allow competitions to begin will need to be made at the county department of health level. Section IV and IAC league officials are in communication with the regional department of health agencies and will keep us informed if and when said approval is made. We will, in turn, continue to update the community on the status of these athletic programs.

Sincerely,
Margo Martin, Superintendent

January 18, 2021

Good evening. This message is from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. Late this evening we received information on a possible positive COVID case involving a staff member at the Groton Jr-Sr High School. The last day that staff member was in the building was on Friday, January 15th. The Tompkins County Health Department will be completing the contact tracing investigation and will be notifying all individuals who were close contacts. We believe all individuals who were close contacts will be directed by the department of health to be in quarantine. As a preemptive measure, we have contacted all families involved to make them aware that their child was a close contact of the positive case.

I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department. Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has shown success in containing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing these thorough methods.

It takes all of us to stop the spread. We continue to urge everyone to wear your mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands well and often, and stay socially distanced from others. As a community, we know our students need to be in school. Please consider your interactions inside and outside of school so we can prevent future cases. If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or myself, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be of top priority to us.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin, Superintendent

January 16, 2021

Good evening. This message is from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. Late this afternoon we received confirmation from the Cayuga County Department of Health that a student at the Groton Elementary School building tested positive for COVID. The last day that student was in the building was on Thursday, January 14th. The Cayuga County Health Department will be completing the contact tracing investigation and will be notifying all individuals who were close contacts. We believe all individuals who were close contacts will be directed by the department of health to be in quarantine. As a preemptive measure, we have contacted all families involved to make them aware that their child was a close contact of the positive case.

I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department. Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has shown success in containing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing these thorough methods.

It takes all of us to stop the spread. We continue to urge everyone to wear your mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands well and often, and stay socially distanced from others. As a community, we know our students need to be in school. Please consider your interactions inside and outside of school so we can prevent future cases. If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or myself, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be of top priority to us.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin, Superintendent

January 10, 2021

Good afternoon. This message is from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. This morning we received confirmation from the Tompkins County Department of Health that a staff member at the Groton Elementary School building tested positive for COVID. The last day that staff member was in the building was on Friday, January 8th. The Tompkins County Health Department will be completing the contact tracing investigation and will be notifying all individuals who were close contacts. We believe all individuals who were close contacts will be directed by the department of health to be in quarantine. As a preemptive measure, we have contacted all families involved to make them aware that their child was a close contact of the positive case.

I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department. Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has shown success in containing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing these thorough methods.

It takes all of us to stop the spread. We continue to urge everyone to wear your mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands well and often, and stay socially distanced from others. As a community, we know our students need to be in school. Please consider your interactions inside and outside of school so we can prevent future cases. If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or myself, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be of top priority to us.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin
Superintendent

December 21, 2020

Good afternoon. This is a message from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. A short while ago we received information that a staff member at the Groton Elementary School building tested positive for COVID. The last day that staff was in the building was on Friday, December 18th. We anticipate the County Health Department will be completing the contact tracing investigation and will be notifying all individuals who were close contacts in the very near future. We believe all individuals who were close contacts will be directed by the department of health to be in quarantine. As a preemptive measure, we have contacted all families involved to make them aware that their child was a close contact of the positive case.

In light of this case as well as the number of faculty and staff who will be unable to attend school in-person, the district will be having a remote learning day on Wednesday, December 23rd. There WILL BE school in-person tomorrow, December 22nd. In addition, the Dickens Caroling event will be held tomorrow evening from 6-8pm.

Students in grades 7-12 will be asked to take their Chromebooks home tomorrow, and will be given opportunity on Wednesday, December 23rd to connect with their teachers via zoom. Teachers will be meeting with students tomorrow to let them know what the learning plan will be for Wednesday.

I apologize for any inconvenience this change in schedule may cause our families, but am doing my best to keep the school and community at large safe and healthy this holiday season. On that note, may you all have a peaceful, restful break. I look forward to seeing all of the students upon their return.

As always, should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your building principal or the district office.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin
Superintendent

December 15, 2020

Good afternoon. This message is from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. This afternoon the Cayuga County Health Department confirmed that a student who attends the Jr-Sr High building tested positive for COVID. Per the Department of Health, the student has not been in school since December 8th, which was more than forty-eight hours prior to developing symptoms and/or testing positive for COVID. As such, they have advised the district they have completed their contact tracing, and do not require any further action by the school since there was no direct contact exposure here on our campus. School will be in session as normal tomorrow, December 16th.

I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department. We are confident that the Health Department's contact tracing and our reopening plan are working to stop the spread and keep people healthy. Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has shown success in containing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing these thorough methods.

It takes all of us to stop the spread. We continue to urge everyone to wear your mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands well and often, and stay socially distanced from others. As a community, we know our students need to be in school. Please consider your interactions inside and outside of school so we can prevent future cases. If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or myself, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be of top priority to us.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin
Superintendent

December 14, 2020

Good morning. This message is from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. This morning we received information that a student at the Groton Jr-Sr High School building tested positive for COVID. The last day that student was in the building was on Wednesday, December 9th. The Tompkins County Health Department will be completing the contact tracing investigation and will be notifying all individuals who were close contacts. We believe all individuals who were close contacts will be directed by the department of health to be in quarantine. As a preemptive measure, we have contacted all families involved to make them aware that their child was a close contact of the positive case.

I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department. We are confident that the Health Department's contact tracing and our reopening plan are working to stop the spread and keep people healthy. Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has shown success in containing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing these thorough methods.

It takes all of us to stop the spread. We continue to urge everyone to wear your mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands well and often, and stay socially distanced from others. As a community, we know our students need to be in school. Please consider your interactions inside and outside of school so we can prevent future cases. If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or myself, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be of top priority to us.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin
Superintendent

December 6, 2020

Good evening. This message is from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. Late this afternoon we received confirmation from the Tompkins County Department of Health that a student at the Groton Jr-Sr High School building tested positive for COVID. The last day that student was in the building was on Tuesday, December 1st. The Tompkins County Health Department is in the process of completing the contact tracing investigation and will be notifying all individuals who were close contacts. The District has also been making calls this evening to notify these families as well. We believe all individuals who were close contacts will be directed by the department of health to be in quarantine. The district will be working closely with the health department to identify all close contacts, and to communicate directly to everyone impacted.

Both the elementary and the Jr-Sr High will be open tomorrow, December 7th for in-person learning. I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department.

In addition, we just received word from TST-BOCES that due to ongoing COVID-19 testing, the CTE and Exceptional Education classrooms will not be returning to in-person instruction until Wednesday, December 9th. Students in P-Tech and the Alternative school WILL be in session tomorrow, December 7th.

It takes all of us to stop the spread. We continue to urge everyone to wear your mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands well and often, and stay socially distanced from others. As a community, we know our students need to be in school. Please consider your interactions inside and outside of school so we can prevent future cases. If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or myself, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be of top priority to us.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin
Superintendent

December 4, 2020

Good afternoon. This message is from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District and is a follow up call from this morning's call informing you of

the positive Covid result of a staff member in the Jr-Sr High School. Upon further investigation by the Department of Health it was determined contact tracing for this case needed to commence as of Tuesday, November 24th. It was further determined that based on the information provided through contact tracing, the Department of Health would be using two different dates for the purposes of determining length of quarantine for those individuals who were found to be close contacts. The first list will be effective Tuesday, November 24th, and the follow up list will be effective December 1st, which was the last day the staff member was in the building. The Tompkins County Health Department is in the process of completing the contact tracing investigation and will be notifying all individuals who were close contacts. We believe all individuals who were close contacts will be directed by the department of health to be in quarantine. The district will be working closely with the health department to identify all close contacts, and to communicate directly to everyone impacted.

As a result of the latest update from the Department of Health, the Jr-Sr High building will be operating in-person instruction on a slightly modified schedule to ensure we have enough adults to cover supervision of all classrooms. As such, there will be no extended day for the 6th grade classrooms next week- students will come just for their core AM or PM shift classes, and will NOT have any specials (i.e. PE, art, or music). Further, all students in grades 7-12 will be functioning under a similarly modified schedule in that there will be **no virtual** PE, art or music classes or lessons next week, and **in-person classes in these areas will be very limited**. If a student is in a class impacted by these modifications, they will be placed in a study hall for that period. There will be adults available in the building all next week to advise students of where they need to go if their schedule is impacted. It is our goal to keep in-person instruction going for our school community as long as it continues to be safe to do so. It should be noted that neither this case nor the positive case in the elementary were initiated by students, and neither case appears to have originated in the school buildings.

I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department. We are confident that the Health Department's contact tracing and our reopening plan are working to stop the spread and keep people healthy. Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has shown success in containing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing these thorough methods.

If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or myself, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide

any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be of top priority.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin
Superintendent

December 4, 2020

Good morning. This message is from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. This morning we received confirmation that a staff member at the Groton Jr-Sr High School building tested positive for COVID. The last day that staff member was in the building was on Tuesday, December 1st. The Tompkins County Health Department is in the process of completing the contact tracing investigation and will be notifying all individuals who were close contacts. We believe all individuals who were close contacts will be directed by the department of health to be in quarantine. The district will be working closely with the health department to identify all close contacts, and to communicate directly to everyone impacted.

I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department. We are confident that the Health Department's contact tracing and our reopening plan are working to stop the spread and keep people healthy. Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has shown success in containing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing these thorough methods.

It takes all of us to stop the spread. We continue to urge everyone to wear your mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands well and often, and stay socially distanced from others. As a community, we know our students need to be in school. Please consider your interactions inside and outside of school so we can prevent future cases. If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or myself, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be of top priority to us.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin
Superintendent

November 29, 2020

Good afternoon. This message is from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. This afternoon the Tompkins County Health Department confirmed that a staff member at the Groton Elementary School building tested positive for COVID. The Tompkins County Health Department is in the process of completing the contact tracing investigation and will be notifying all individuals who were close contacts. We believe all individuals who were close contacts will be directed by the department of health to be in quarantine. The district worked closely with the health department to identify all close contacts, and to communicate directly to everyone impacted.

I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department. We are confident that the Health Department's contact tracing and our reopening plan are working to stop the spread and keep people healthy. Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has shown success in containing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing these thorough methods.

It takes all of us to stop the spread. We continue to urge everyone to wear your mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands well and often, and stay socially distanced from others. As a community, we know our students need to be in school. Please consider your interactions inside and outside of school so we can prevent future cases. If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or myself, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be of top priority to us.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin
Superintendent

October 29, 2020

Good afternoon. This message is from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. This morning the Tompkins County Health Department confirmed that a student who attends the Jr-Sr High building tested positive for COVID. Per the Department of Health, the student has not been in school since October 23rd, which was more than forty-eight hours prior to developing symptoms. As such, they have advised the district they have completed their contact tracing, and do not require any further action by the school since there was no direct contact exposure here on our campus. School will be in session as normal tomorrow, October 30th.

I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department. We are confident that the Health Department's contact tracing and our reopening plan are working to stop the spread and keep people healthy. Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has shown success in containing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing these thorough methods.

It takes all of us to stop the spread. We continue to urge everyone to wear your mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands well and often, and stay socially distanced from others. As a community, we know our students need to be in school. Please consider your interactions inside and outside of school so we can prevent future cases. If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or myself, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be of top priority to us.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin
Superintendent

October 18, 2020

Good afternoon. This is a message from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton CSD.

This afternoon TST-BOCES confirmed that a Groton student who attends school at the BOCES campus all day tested positive for COVID. Because this student has not been on the Groton Central School District campus this school year, the health department will only be contacting Groton students who shared a bus with this student. The transportation department has confirmed that the bus this student rides does not come to the Groton school campus either, as its student riders are only those who attend the TST-BOCES campus for their entire academic programming.

The Tompkins County Health Department will be completing the contact tracing investigation this afternoon to notify all individuals who were close contacts and the students' families. All individuals who were close contacts will be in quarantine.

I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department. We are confident that the Health Department's contact tracing and our reopening plan are working to stop the spread and keep people healthy. Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has shown success in containing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing these thorough methods. This is not a time for fear, panic, or rumors. Those who are impacted have been notified and are safely in quarantine so that the rest of us can continue following COVID-19 protocols and keep our students in school.

All school buses are routinely cleaned and disinfected. The bus that the individual who tested positive rode on will be cleaned following an additional set of protocols outlined in our reopening plan. **Our buildings will be open for school tomorrow, October 19th.**

It takes all of us to stop the spread. We continue to urge everyone to wear your mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands well and often, and stay socially distanced from others. As a community, we know our students need to be in school. Please consider your interactions inside and outside of school so we can prevent future cases. If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or Margo Martin, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be the top priority to us.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of your weekend

Sincerely,

Margo Martin
Superintendent

September 27, 2020

Good afternoon. This is a message from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton CSD.

This morning Tompkins County Department of Health officials confirmed with district administration that a student at the Jr-Sr Hlgh had tested positive for COVID. The student who tested positive did not attend school while symptomatic and is currently in isolation.

The Tompkins County Health Department has completed the contact tracing investigation and has notified all individuals who were close contacts and the students' families. All individuals who were close contacts are in quarantine. The district worked closely with the health department to identify all close contacts, and to communicate directly to everyone impacted.

Tompkins County Public Health Director Frank Kruppa is sharing the following statement with families and district community members, " Groton has implemented thorough reopening plans and safety precautions to decrease the risk of exposure, including a daily health screening application in partnership with the Cayuga Medical System. We are working closely with Superintendent Martin and school officials to ensure that precautions are being taken to stop the spread, and to make sure students, families, and staff have the information they need to stay safe and healthy. "

I want to assure our school community that we are taking all necessary steps to protect staff and students and communicate closely with the Health Department. While it is disconcerting to have this first case in our district, we are confident that the Health Department's contact tracing and our reopening plan are working to stop the spread and keep people healthy. Throughout the pandemic, the Health Department has shown success in containing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing these thorough methods. This is not a time for fear, panic, or rumors. Those who are impacted have been notified and are safely in quarantine so that the rest of us can continue following COVID-19 protocols and keep our students in school.

All school facilities are routinely cleaned and disinfected. All areas where the individual who tested positive was present have been cleaned following an additional set of

protocols outlined in our reopening plan. **Our buildings will be open for school tomorrow, September 28th.**

It takes all of us to stop the spread. We continue to urge everyone to wear your mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands well and often, and stay socially distanced from others. As a community, we know our students need to be in school. Please consider your interactions inside and outside of school so we can prevent future cases. If you have any additional concerns, please contact your building level principal, or myself, by calling the district office. We will continue to monitor this situation and provide any necessary updates, as the health, safety and well-being of our entire school community continues to be of top priority to us.

Sincerely,

Margo Martin

September 10, 2020

Good afternoon. This is a message from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District with information about our upcoming opening day of school. As a reminder, the first day of school for all students will be tomorrow, Friday, September 11th. For students in grades 7-12, the day will include their core subject classes ONLY- math, social studies, English and science. They will begin their full schedule of core and encore classes on Monday, September 14th. Also, BOCES CTE programming does not begin until Monday, the 14th, so students who have that on their schedule will not be attending that on the 11th.

Parents, thank you for responding to the emails regarding registering your students for the daily pre-screening application through Cayuga Medical Center. If you have not completed the registration yet, please do so today. You can find the link to register through Cayuga Health in the Daily Screening letter located on the main page of the website. If you have multiple children you will have to go the link again for each additional child you need to register. Please remember to enter your child's name and use their full date of birth (ex. 01/06/2009). If you are having any difficulties completing this registration, please contact Cara Stevens at the District Office - 898-5301.

Finally, the transportation department has asked me to inform all parents of students whose schedules require they arrive at school at 9:30 - Please be ready to be picked up at 8:30am, as we are not sure what time the buses will be at each student's home until we practice this run a few times. The bus will be stopping at each home and beeping

their horn for students to come out. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause, and appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through all of the logistics of running multiple bus runs throughout the school day.

Please note that for all other students who will be riding the bus for a normal drop off for the AM shift or PM shift, parents should be following the pick-up time that the transportation department mailed to you last week.

September 9, 2020

Good afternoon. This is a message from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District with information about our upcoming opening day of school. As a reminder, the first day of school for all students will be Friday, September 11th. For students in grades 7-12, the day will include their core subject classes ONLY- math, social studies, English and science. They will begin their full schedule of core and encore classes on Monday, September 14th. Also, BOCES CTE programming does not begin until Monday, the 14th, so students who have that on their schedule will not be attending that on the 11th.

Parents, thank you for responding to the email we sent yesterday regarding registering your students for the daily pre-screening application through Cayuga Medical Center. If you have not completed the registration yet, please do so today. You can find the link in the Daily Screening letter below. If you are having any difficulties completing this registration, please contact Cara Stevens at the District Office - 898-5301.

Finally, the transportation department has asked me to inform all parents of students whose schedules require they arrive at school at 9:30 - Please be ready to be picked up at 8:30am, as we are not sure what time the buses will be at each student's home until we practice this run a few times. The bus will be stopping at each home and beeping their horn for students to come out. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause, and appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through all of the logistics of running multiple bus runs throughout the school day.

Please note that for all other students who will be riding the bus for a normal drop off for the AM shift or PM shift, parents should be following the pick-up time that the transportation department mailed to you last week.

September 8, 2020

Good afternoon. This is a message from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District with information about our upcoming opening day of school. As a reminder, the first day of school for all students will be Friday, September 11th. For students in grades 7-12, the day will include their core subject classes ONLY- math, social studies, English and science. They will begin their full schedule of core and encore classes on Monday, September 14th. Also, BOCES CTE programming does not begin until Monday, the 14th, so students who have that on their schedule will not be attending that on the 11th.

Parents, please be checking your email for registering your students for the daily pre-screening application through Cayuga Medical Center. You will need to go into that email, click on the link, and register your child. After you have completed that, you will receive daily emails reminding you to complete the pre-screening every day you will be sending your student to school. If you are having any difficulties completing this registration, please contact Cara Stevens at the District Office - 898-5301.

Finally, the transportation department has asked me to inform all parents of students whose schedules require they arrive at school at 9:30 - Please be ready to be picked up at 8:30am, as we are not sure what time the buses will be at each student's home until we practice this run a few times. The bus will be stopping at each home and beeping their horn for students to come out. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause, and appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through all of the logistics of running multiple bus runs throughout the school day.

Please note that for all other students who will be riding the bus for a normal drop off for the AM shift or PM shift, parents should be following the pick-up time that the transportation department mailed to you last week.

August 25, 2020

Re: Moving School Start Date

Good morning. This is Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District with an important message about a change in Opening Day of school.

The District has been preparing its reopening plan for the past several weeks, to include identifying all the new procedures and protocols necessary to reopen during this COVID pandemic. In order to be able to ensure we are doing everything we can for the safety and well-being of our entire school community, the District will be delaying the Opening Day of school for all students until Friday, September 11th. We will be using the 9th and 10th as Superintendent Conference days where we will be going over, and, where necessary practicing, the social distancing, cleaning, transition times, feeding, and arrival and departure processes, we have in place. We will also be reviewing our live streaming procedures with all faculty to ensure they are ready to go opening day.

On Friday, September 11th, all students will report to school per their AM/PM shifts. Student schedules for grades 7-12 will be mailed out on Wednesday, August 26th. Students in grades UPK-6 will report to their teacher's classroom at their assigned time.

Students learning remotely will follow their remote schedule for live streaming classes. ALL students in grades 6-12 will be participating in an assembly opening day where we will be going over proper use of PPE, how to safely transition in the hallways, expectations around meal times, and student arrival and departure procedures, amongst other topics.

We have designated the following days for Chromebook Distribution for our remote learners:

Groton Elementary School students may pick up their Chromebooks on Sept. 3rd from 12-3pm.

Groton Jr-Sr High students may pick up their Chromebooks and schedules on Sept. 2 from 8am-4pm.

Please remember to wear face coverings upon entering either building.

We understand this change may require our parents to make some adjustments to schedules and appreciate your understanding of the District as we continue to work to ensure a safe reopening of school.

I hope you all enjoy the last few weeks of summer and I look forward to seeing everyone on September 11th!

August 13, 2020

Good afternoon. This is a message from Margo Martin, Superintendent at Groton Central Schools. I would just like to take a moment to thank all of our families that have been able to complete our Return to School parent survey. We have had almost 600 responses to date and are appreciative of the information.

The purpose of this survey is to notify the school of your decision as parents regarding the learning plan and transportation needs for your student this coming fall. In order for us to be able to finalize our class sizes, complete student schedules, and build our bus routes, we need to hear from every family what their intentions are for educating their child in the fall. Therefore, if you have not had a chance to complete this Parent survey,

we are requesting that you do so by the end of the day on Monday, August 17th. You can access the survey right from our home page on our website.

If we have not heard from you by the end of the day on the 17th, we will assume your child will be attending school and will build their schedule accordingly. Further, we will assume your child will not be in need of transportation, and, therefore, we will not be assigning them to a bus run.

We thank you for your cooperation with this. Should you have any questions, please reach out to your building principal.

August 3, 2020

Good afternoon. This is Margo Martin, Superintendent of Groton CSD, with a message regarding our instructional plan for the upcoming school year. Please click on the link below for a survey that is asking you to identify the instructional plan for your child for September. In order for us to build small cohorts of students, we will need to know whether your student will be participating in-person via the AM/PM shifts, or entirely remotely. The survey also asks you to inform us of your final plans for transportation of your child to and from school. Again, this information is important for us to have so that we can assign students to bus runs and seats on those runs prior to the start of the school year. Please complete a survey for each child in your home by August 12th, understanding we are asking for a ten week commitment to whatever plan you select.

Final Reopening Plans - Parent Survey

I would also like to inform you that we have scheduled Parent Information nights by grade level for the week of August 10th. You will be receiving information on these meetings in the mail tomorrow. In addition to the survey regarding the instructional choice for the fall, we have also sent you a Google form that will allow you to submit any questions you may have regarding our plan, which we will then include the answers to in our parent presentations.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

June 22, 2020

Good morning! This is a message from Margo Martin, superintendent of the Groton Central School District, calling to advise you all that the District will be providing meals to families during our summer break via a grab and go pick up at the pavilion on Main Street. This program begins on Monday, July 6th and runs through Friday, August 14th, and is open to anyone 18 years of age and younger. Families will be able to pick up both breakfast and lunch from 9-11am Monday-Friday.

As the school year ends, please remember to return your student's learning materials to his/her respective buildings. Students at the elementary school who have not yet returned their Chromebooks can do so via the Main Office. Students in grades 6-12 are scheduled to return all school materials June 24th-26th between the hours of 8am-5pm via the high school main entrance vestibule. Report cards will be distributed at that time.

Please know that we are working on a return-to-school plan for the fall, and will be sending out surveys and providing you all with updates on our progress throughout the month of July. Listed below are two surveys we would appreciate your feedback on as we move forward with planning. **Please submit both surveys by Monday, June 29th.**

[Return to School Parent Survey](#)

[Transportation Survey](#)

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank all of our families for all you have done over the past several weeks. We are extremely appreciative of your ongoing support in helping with remote learning for our students...I think we can all agree summer vacation never sounded so good!

May 27, 2020

Good afternoon. This is a message from Margo Martin, superintendent of the Groton Central School District calling with a reminder on the upcoming Community Dinner in recognition of all who have been on the front lines these past several weeks, including medical personnel, first responders, and parents taking on supporting the school's

remote learning at home. This free, baked ziti and meatball dinner is being sponsored by the Groton Central School District, including the Groton Faculty Association, and the Groton Rotary. Meal distribution begins at 5:30pm at the pavilion on Main Street, and will continue until it is gone.

We would also like to remind all of you of the upcoming virtual budget hearing scheduled for Monday, June 1st, immediately following the BOE meeting. After reviewing the Budget newsletters that have been mailed home, please feel free to email the superintendent any questions you would like answered during that presentation at mmartin@groton.cnyric.org. Absentee ballots have been mailed out to homes of previous voters over the past ten years. If you would like to receive an absentee ballot, please contact the District Office at 898-5301. All absentee ballots are due back by 5pm on June 9th.

As always, we thank you for your support and wish all of you well.

May 15th, 2020

Good afternoon! This is Margo Martin, superintendent of the Groton Central School District with information on the end of the school year. The final day of school for all students, grades UPK-12, will be on Friday, June 19th. Information on the process for turning in all Chromebooks and textbooks will be forthcoming from each building in the near future. Until June 19th, students are required to continue to participate in remote learning. For students in grades 6-12, failure to complete work will put them in danger of not receiving credit for the course for the school year. We understand this is not the most conducive learning environment for our students, but we implore you to have your students stay the course. There are only five weeks to go... we can do this!!! Please be checking your email for the weekly interim progress reports, and if your child is struggling, reach out to us at the main office so that we can provide additional supports to you and your student.

At this time, the Groton Central School District will be holding graduation for its Senior Class of 2020 on June 27th at 11:00am at Ross Field. Members of the senior class and their parents will be receiving information regarding the graduation ceremony shortly. Due to social distancing requirements, we will be limiting the guests who can attend the ceremony to the immediate family members of our seniors. We will, however, be announcing the graduation over a PA system that we are sure can be heard throughout the Village. Please feel free to support our seniors from your front porch!

Finally, I would like you all to be aware that on Wednesday, May 20th, at 8:20pm (2020 military time), we will be joining a regional initiative to Light up the Night in recognition of the senior athletes. The lights at Ross Field will be on for 20 minutes, with music being played from the PA system. Feel free to take a drive through the parking lot in your car in support of the seniors!

I hope you feel as positive as I do about the fact that Tompkins County is moving into Phase 1 of reopening. If we continue to use good judgment around social distancing, our region can be a model for getting the New York State economy moving forward.

As always, I hope all of you are well. Stay safe.

May 1, 2020

Good afternoon. This is Margo Martin, superintendent of the Groton Central School District. Earlier this morning, the governor announced schools would remain closed through the remainder of the academic school year. Remote learning and food service delivery will continue.

In light of the extended closure, we will be making some adjustments to our instructional schedule for grades 6-12. We have heard from both parents and students that they are feeling secure in the instructional aspect of remote learning, but they are missing the social interactions being in school provides them. To that end, we are going to be rolling out virtual social interaction opportunities for these students on Fridays, beginning Friday, May 8th. Students will have opportunity to participate in a variety of exercises that require them to work with peers to complete, which we will then roll out to the grades as a whole during regularly scheduled Zoom class times. As such, instruction on content will run Monday through Thursday only, to allow for student participation in these activities on Friday. Be looking for further information on this initiative early next week.

Until then, please stay safe and well. I hope we experience some warm weather this weekend that allows for all of you to enjoy some fresh air.

April 16, 2020

Good afternoon. This is Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District with an update on school closure. Today Governor Cuomo announced that

schools will remain closed through May 15th, 2020. As such, we will continue with our remote learning plan as well as our daily food delivery program.

Friday, April 17th, marks the end of the third quarter of school. Student report cards will be mailed home on Wednesday, April 22nd. That mailing will include a letter from the building principal explaining the modified grading system we have put in at various grade levels. If you have any questions after reviewing that material, please do not hesitate to contact your student's building principal.

I hope this message finds all of you well. I am missing the sound of student voices in the hallways and classrooms. Please know we are thinking of all of you and are very appreciative of all the support you are providing our instructional staff as we navigate through this period of remote learning.

April 7, 2020

Good evening. This is Superintendent Margo Martin from the Groton Central School District with an update on school closure and Regents exams. As many of you are already aware, Governor Cuomo extended public school closures, setting the new possible return to school date as Wednesday, April 29th. In addition, the Board of Regents cancelled all June Regents exams. Although there will be no Regents exams at the end of the school year for students in Regents-bearing courses, students will still be required to complete the classwork necessary to get high school credit for the class. As we get further along in remote learning, I would like to stress to all of our students the importance of completing work remotely and submitting it in a timely fashion for teacher feedback. For the time being, this is the new "norm" for how we attend school, and the expectation that students put forth their best effort in completing assignments remains. Please be sure to reach out for help if you are struggling with your classes. Your teachers are available to support you as you continue to take on the learning content with ten weeks to go in the school year.

On another note, may I remind everyone that breakfast and lunch meal deliveries will resume on Monday, April 13th. If you are in need of food between now and next week, please reach out to the District office at 898-5301 as we can make arrangements to get some non-perishable food items to you.

I hope you are all are doing well. I am missing the sounds of students, faculty and staff in the hallways. Until we are back together, I encourage you all to stay calm and stay the course. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to any of you. Thank you.

March 31, 2020

Good afternoon. This is a message from the superintendent regarding Groton's plan for continuity of learning while the school remains closed. Last week, Governor Cuomo announced the extension of school closure until April 15th, 2020. Further detail has since been released for schools like ours that have scheduled spring break during the extended closure time. (Groton's break is scheduled for April 6th-10th.) *This latest executive order requires that continuity of learning continues over the break period.*

I have been working with building leadership and faculty on what this will look like for the Groton students and their families. Many parents have reported the transition to remote learning to be a difficult one, and that student productivity has not been at its best. Therefore, we have developed a plan that balances the need for continuing student learning and providing an opportunity for students to get caught up on assignments. Teachers will keep the students connected to remote learning through the issuance of enrichment activities related to various skill sets we hope to build within each student. In addition, they will be utilizing this time to support students in completing outstanding assignments. Finally, our faculty will be utilizing this time to plan for school closure that may extend the present return date of April 15th, as we have used a variety of tools to uncover what best practice in Groton looks like over the last two weeks. Teachers will be sending individual messages to parents outlining what the plan for continued learning will look like for their specific class by Friday, April 3rd.

As a reminder, we will be continuing our food service for next week via a food box "giveaway" scheduled for Friday, April 3rd from 11:00 - 1:00pm at the pavilion on Main Street. Families that are in need of food may pick up a box containing seven days worth of meals for a family of five. We have 100 of these boxes to distribute, and ask that they be made available to the families most in need on a first come- first serve basis. If you are in need of a food box, but are unable to pick one up at that time, please contact the district office at 898-5301 by 2:00pm on Wednesday, April 1st to make alternate arrangements.

We thank you for your continued support of your students' remote learning. We understand this is not an easy task, and appreciate all you are doing.

March 30, 2020

Good afternoon. This is a message from Superintendent Margo Martin regarding our plan for food distribution for the week of April 6th through April 10th. On Friday, April

3rd, we will be distributing 100 food boxes that will include seven days worth of meals to our families most in need. This distribution will take place at the Pavilion on Main Street in Groton, and will run from 11:00am to 1:00pm. All boxes contain breakfast, lunch, and dinner for a family of five, and have been made available to District residents by means of Groton HARVEST grant funding from the Park Foundation. If your family is in need of a food box, and you are unable to get to the Groton pavilion on Friday, April 3rd, please contact the district office at 898-5301 by Wednesday, April 1st, so that alternative arrangements can be made. Families may also consider contacting the Groton Food Pantry located at 101 McKinley Ave. for meals at the following phone number: 592-4825.

The food box distribution will replace our normal breakfast and lunch meal distributions for the week of April 6th. Daily breakfast and lunch meal delivery service or grab-and-go pick-up via each school building will resume on Monday, April 13th.

March 27, 2020

Good evening. This is a message from Groton Central School District Superintendent Margo Martin. Earlier this afternoon Governor Cuomo announced he was extending the executive order of all school closures to April 15th, 2020. Further details about what districts are to be doing in the interim will be determined when the Executive Order and corresponding guidance from State Ed and the Board of regents is published. As soon as I have that information, I will be sending a letter outlining Groton's updated education plan to all of our families in the district. In the meantime, please continue to work with your student's teachers in Google Classroom on the daily assignments they have put in place. For families without WiFi, please continue to complete work as was provided via the USB drives for grades 1 through 12, or the paper packets for grades UPK and kindergarten. As always, if you have any questions about the remote learning plan, please do not hesitate to reach out to your building principal. We at Groton schools are thinking of all you, and hope you are all safe and healthy!

March 17, 2020

Per executive order from the Governor of New York, all schools are closed effective Wednesday, March 18th through Tuesday, March 31st. At this time, the Governor is informing districts they will reopen on Wednesday, April 1st, 2020. This order supersedes previous closing mandates set by Tompkins County. However, school districts have also been advised that this situation continues to evolve, and that this

reopening date of April 1st, 2020 may be pushed back. We will keep you updated as we get information from the Governor.

In order to be proactive with protecting the faculty and staff, we will be following the Governor's mandate that we limit employees reporting to work to 50% of our total workforce. As such, faculty and staff will be placed on a rotational basis for reporting to their respective buildings, commencing the end of the day tomorrow, March 18th. This will allow us to continue to implement remote learning equitably to all our families, while maintaining a consistent presence of grade levels and departments each day to be able to conduct communications with students and families as they work through their instructional materials. In addition, we will be operating out of a physical building footprint that is approximately 40% of the facility we use during a normal school day. We will not be allowing entry in various parts of the building, as it would require additional cleaning that would be difficult to perform with limited personnel. As such, all exchanges of materials and/or meals will take place outside of the main buildings.

I have been asked by the Village and Town of Groton to advise everyone that their offices are closed to the public entering the buildings. If you need assistance, they ask you contact them by phone. The Village number is 898-3966 and the Town number is 898-5035.

Finally, just a reminder we will be starting our meal program tomorrow. Meals are available via a grab-and-go at both buildings between 8 and 10am. Buses will be delivering to families outside of the village between 9:15-10:30am.

March 16, 2020

Good afternoon. This is Margo Martin, Superintendent of Groton Central Schools with an update on our remote learning plan. A reminder that all students in grades 6-12 can pick up their Chromebooks and instructional materials tomorrow, March 17th, from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. This includes musical instruments. Work being sent home tomorrow for grades 6-12 is due back to the school on Friday, March 27th. If you are unable to drop the work off at the school, please plan on having your packet ready for pick-up when the daily meals are delivered to your home on March 27th.

For grades UPK-5, the student work that was sent home with your child on Friday, March 13th is due Friday, March 20th. Please see the school website for drop-off instructions. If you are unable to bring your child's work in, please have it ready for pickup when the daily meals are delivered to your home on March 20th.

As we continue to refine our remote learning plan, we are in need of information from families regarding WiFi capabilities. If you are a family that does **NOT** have reliable WiFi in your home, please contact either the Groton Elementary School at 898-5853 or the Groton Jr-Sr High School at 898-5803 by noon tomorrow, March 17th. This information will enable us to build materials and resources necessary for your students to be able to continue high-quality learning remotely.

Please note that various businesses such as Spectrum have offered families free internet services for the next 60 days. If you are interested in exploring these services, please see our website for more information, or contact Spectrum directly by calling 844-488-8395.

Finally, we would like you to know we are posting all updates to our website on a regular basis and families should be checking that daily for new information.

March 15, 2020

Good evening. This is Margo Martin from the Groton Central School District calling with a brief update regarding our remote learning plan as well as our breakfast and lunch meal distribution plan.

We will be distributing remote learning materials to all students in grades 6-12 on Tuesday, March 17th from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. Families are asked to come to the Jr-Sr High Entrance to pick up student Chromebooks and five days of instructional work. Any student unable to pick up their materials on Tuesday will receive them Wednesday, March 18th at their home between the hours of 9:30 am and noon via school bus delivery.

We will also be starting to offer breakfast and lunch to all students as of Wednesday, March 18th. Students can come to the elementary school or the junior-senior high school for a “grab-and-go” delivery method. We will also be providing delivery of food for those families in need of meals that reside outside of village limits. This delivery will be by way of our school busses that will be running their regular routes.

All families will be receiving a letter from the district outlining the specifics of both of these plans within the next day or two. Should you have any questions, please contact the District Office at 898-5301. Please keep in mind this is a rapidly-changing situation for our entire community. The school will continue to provide regular updates as new information is made available to us. Thank you all for your understanding, flexibility, and

patience as we work together to continue our instructional operations in this remote fashion.

March 13, 2020

Good evening. This is a message from Margo Martin, Superintendent of the Groton Central School District. This evening, Frank Kruppa, Tompkins County Public Health Director declared a state of emergency for Tompkins County, and recommended that school districts in Tompkins County close to students effective March 14th, 2020 through April 13th, 2020.

Based upon this recommendation, the Groton CSD will be closed to students effective Saturday, March 14th until Monday, April 13th. All school activities are canceled until students return to session on Monday, April 13th. This action supersedes any information you may have received earlier today from the district.

We will be initiating our remote learning plan for all students beginning on Wednesday, March 18th. Information on the exact particulars of this learning program will be forthcoming via our website and a letter home to parents on Monday, March 16th.

I understand this is uncharted territory for the District community and appreciate everyone's flexibility and patience as we put together a plan that will help ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Groton families.