



# Spencer-Van Etten Central School District

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Diahann Hesler  
Superintendent of Schools

October 9, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Education during a pandemic certainly looks and feels different than education did prior to March 2020. Parent/guardian, student and staff feedback from the March through June closure guided us to change the expectations of remote learning. As a reminder, students are required to connect and engage daily, turn in all assignments and participate in required zooms and lessons, all of which drives grades and student attendance. We have noticed a trend in lack of attendance, which is mandatory. Please reach out if there is a barrier preventing your child from connecting with their teacher. Your child's school will be reaching out to disengaged learners if there is a lack of attendance and completed work and may need to make referrals to various agencies to assist families as needed.

We are providing another opportunity for your child to switch their learning plan to best fit their needs. We understand this option is coming sooner than the end of the month but moving forward we are aligning these adjustments to our marking periods because of complications within Schoology and challenges that we did not anticipate.

What does a plan change mean?

1) If your child follows the 100% Distance Learning Plan, you may request to change to the Hybrid Plan to attend in-person learning 2 days per week

OR

2) If your child follows the Hybrid Plan, attending in-person learning 2 days per week, you may request to change to 100% Distance Learning.

How do I change my child's plan?

1) Call to your child's school prior to Friday, October 16th at 3:00pm.

a. Elementary School: Mrs. Bishop @ 589-7110

b. Middle School: Mrs. Holmes @ 589-7120

c. High School: Mrs. Perry @ 589-7140

2) Request a plan change; also request if you need transportation, a technology device, etc.

3) Your child will begin their new plan on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Again, for those interested in changing your child's learning plan, please make your requests to your child's school prior to Friday, October 16th at 3:00pm. Please take into consideration that the next option to change learning plans will occur in January, which will be a longer duration of time between plan changes.

We are hearing from the Department of Health that cases are on the rise surrounding us. Should we need to close school due to an exposure, we will follow the guidance from the Department of Health, which will include who the closure will impact and the duration. As we have seen in the surrounding communities, each case is unique and contact tracing will determine the degree of the closure. We have protocols in place and are preparing should we be directed to close due to the pandemic. Should a closure occur, we will promptly notify parents/guardians, staff and students and will transition to distance learning. Student and staff safety are at the forefront. Please remember to be safe and continue to follow the guidance provided by the Department of Health.

We appreciate working with you as educational partners.

Be well,  
Diahann Hesler  
Superintendent of Schools