

MARGARETVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Building Principal
Linda J. Taylor

Treasurer
Karen H. Dietrich
October 25, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Many have gone through a great deal in a short period of time. During these difficult times, I oftentimes turn to observe our youth and find a true sense of resiliency and spontaneity that creates a balance between worry and joy. I hope those who have endured the recent hurricane and flood have returned to that sense of balance.

As you are aware, our school opened on September 13, 2011 due to the flood and concern for safe bus travel on our local roads. The late opening allowed us to re-group and empty the basement of the nearly 7 feet of water that luckily only entered the basement and bus garage. The main building never was threatened with water damage as was the case with some neighboring school districts.

Opening on September 13th was a very positive event as our faculty and staff planned a joyous "welcome" to all our students which ended in a flash mob dance in the gymnasium. For a small school it was great to see children, young adults and adults all participating in a manner that found that balance between the worry and joy we all were experiencing.

Opening on September 13th also caused our district to use five (5) of the planned six (6) snow/emergency days allowed on the 2011-12 school calendar. As you are aware, the New York State Education Department mandates all public schools in NYS provide one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction for students. Knowing how winters are in our area (last year we used all six snow/emergency days), we will need to plan accordingly to meet the mandate in front of us.

I have met with the leadership of our faculty and staff and also had a conversation with the members of our Board of Education. I am recommending the following plan be enacted to care for our obligation of providing at least 180 days of instruction for our students:

- 1. Margaretville Central School will be open for a ½ day morning session on Wednesday November 23rd.**
- 2. Margaretville Central will be open for a ½ day morning session on Friday April 6th.**
- 3. Any snow/emergency days beyond the three set aside from our current calendar will be taken from dates beginning on April 9th as noted on the 2011-12 calendar. Should these days in April need to be used, I will send out another letter with updated information.**

We will continue to provide a solid educational experience for your child(ren). Please do not hesitate to contact me if MCS can assist you in any way. Thank you for your ongoing support. My best to all-

Sincerely,



Anthony R. Albanese
Superintendent

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