

SULLIVAN WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Bulldogs,

As Spring Break approaches, and the fourth quarter is in sight, here are a couple of updates to keep you informed from now to the end of the year.

School Calendar Give Back Days

We have 2 snow days left. If we do not use them the first give-back day is **May 24th**. This is the Friday before Memorial Day weekend, making that a four-day weekend for staff and students. The second give-back day will be the Monday after spring break, **April 8th**. Originally the second day was slated for later in April, however, we recognized that the solar eclipse is happening on April 8th and wanted to give our families the opportunity to travel or watch the eclipse at home. We hope that no matter what your plans are, that you enjoy this additional day of spring break.

COVID Update

We received updated recommendations on when staff and students are to stay home after COVID-19. The new recommended timeframe is that individuals can go back to normal activities when their symptoms have improved, and they are fever free without medication for at least 24 hours. This means that now if your child or a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they only need to stay home for 1 day if they are symptom and fever free. Recommendations still include taking precautions over the next 5 days such as masking, testing, and physical distancing from others. We will post this information on our school website. If you have any questions, please contact your school nurse.

Middle-High School Principal Search

Principal, Mr. Haberli, will retire in August, and we have been searching for a Secondary School Principal to start new for the 2024-2025 school year. It has been an exciting process, and we want to thank Mr. Parisi and the interview committees for their diligence in being thoughtful about what leadership our Middle-High School will benefit from. Finalist interviews will be held this week with a recommendation for the April 16th meeting. After the announcement we will hold a “Meet and Greet” later this spring for staff, parents and community members to meet them.

Safety Update

There are a variety of new safety updates that have been happening at both school buildings. There was a power point presented by school administrators at the March 21, 2024, school board meeting and is now on the district website that provides several updates. Currently our three areas of focus are increased school building security, clear and timely communication, and faculty/staff safety training. Here are two more important pieces of information for families to know.

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On **Friday, March 29, 2024**, the Sheriff's Office will be holding a training with the Emergency Services Unit and School Resource Officers in both school buildings. They will start at the Middle-High School in the morning and go to the Elementary School in the afternoon. This allows local law enforcement to train on our campuses for emergency events. There will be multiple cars and possibly other emergency vehicles parked at the schools while they complete their training. Our campuses will be closed that day to all.

On **Tuesday April 9, 2024**, we will begin trialing additional security at both school buildings. Atlas Security, who currently provides additional security at Tri-Valley, Livingston Manor, Roscoe and BOCES will be providing us with an armed security person at each building. They come with various training and certifications as security guards and will also undergo our verification process just like any employee of the school. Their primary focus is on our building security. We will be trialing them until the end of the year and decide later in the spring on how to move forward with security in 2024-2025 school year.

We hope that you all have a peaceful break with your friends and loved ones. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready to have a strong finish to the 23-24 school year.

Take care and be well.

Kathleen Bressler

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