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Dear Middletown School Community,

I'm writing to you tonight in hopes this letter finds you having enjoyed the sunshine this weekend. Friday, Governor Cuomo announced he is extending his Executive Ordering mandating schools close through the remainder of the school year. This is a difficult letter to write. Over the past few weeks, I have been holding out hope we would be able to come together again as a school community before we closed out the school year. Although coming together in a traditional sense, inside our brick and mortar schools, isn't in the plan right now, I'm feeling a renewed sense of spirit as I reflect on the potential for continued new opportunities for collaboration remotely during this period of closure.

I acknowledge this definitive response from the Governor, closing school until the end of the year, adds additional layers of complexity to an already challenging situation. The impact of this closure is far reaching and will be felt within our community for some time to come. Feelings of frustration and disappointment will be shared. Our district misses our students and families, and as an educational community we miss our colleagues. Many of you are left to wonder what will happen to the planned end-of-year events that mark significant milestones in our lives. These events are carefully planned throughout the year and our entire school community deserves to celebrate with academic ceremonies, concerts, plays, awards, recognitions, and athletic events. Of course, we are also deeply saddened about the impact this closure will have on our high school graduates. We are currently working out details in order to celebrate our graduates with a virtual graduation ceremony on June 26. On behalf of the entire school community I share words of support and encouragement for the graduates. We are here for you, will continue to support you in any way we can and will be thinking of solutions to your needs. We remain committed as a community of caring, dedicated professionals who wish to honor and celebrate you, as you transition from life at Middletown High School to the joys and challenges of life beyond high school. **More information on our end-of-year events will be out in the coming weeks.**

This period of school closure has reminded our district we must be agile as we respond to the needs of our most precious commodity, our students. Our faculty, staff, students and their families have worked tirelessly to adapt to remote learning and have turned challenge into opportunity. We reaffirm our dedication to our [remote learning](#) practices as well as our commitment to student well being. The district's [food service department](#) will continue to provide meals to students. Thank you for all of the work you have done to help support our students during this difficult time.

To the members of our school community who continue to serve in roles as front line responders, health care workers and other essential workers, we express our sincere gratitude for all of the sacrifices you are making each day to keep us healthy and safe.

Our school district continues to be a source of strength in the community. As always, we appreciate the patience and flexibility of our families during this challenging time.

With respect,
Richard Del Moro
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