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Dear Middletown faculty, staff, families, and scholars,

As I am sure you are aware through the extensive media coverage, your own personal experiences, and discussions everywhere, positive cases of COVID-19 are on the rise nationally, as well as in New York State and in Orange County.

Today, the Governor of New York held a press conference where he **projected Middletown would be identified as a designated Yellow Zone within the next 24 to 48 hours.** We have been in close communication with the Orange County Department of Health (OCDOH), the County Executive's Office, and the City of Middletown Mayor's Office. We will develop an inter-agency plan to address our individual and collective needs should our placement in the Yellow Zone be confirmed. This confirmation would include a review of a map indicating the impacted areas within the Yellow Zone. Again, we have heard unconfirmed reports of Middletown being designated a Yellow Zone. We have not yet received confirmation of this determination. **This Yellow Zone determination could put our district in the position of needing to pause in-person instruction for students. It could require us to utilize the elements in our reopening plan where a shift back into a remote only instructional model is put in place. This shift from our current hybrid model to a 100% remote instructional model will impact our entire school district.**

We remain committed to delivering continuity of learning to our community. Additionally, we have not lost sight of our focus on the health, well-being, and safety of all. I know this lack of confirmed information is frustrating. Please know, we stand beside our entire school community in working through this challenging time. I am sure many of you have been anticipating this pause and are well-prepared for the shifts your family might need to make in response to this pause. We strongly recommend you consider the shifts your family might need to make should we need to pause in-person instruction in the coming days.

This pause is difficult for all of us and not what we hoped for. As a school community our hearts are with our students and families. I continue to be humbled by the grace and perseverance demonstrated by our entire school community. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in education,

Richard Del Moro

Richard Del Moro, Superintendent of Schools