

Otto-Eldred School District

143 R. L. Sweitzer Drive

Duke Center, PA 16729

(814) 817-1380 opt. 3 Fax 966-3911

Matthew D. Splain, Superintendent

Jodi L. Flexman, Business Manager

Otto-Eldred Elementary School

5 Bennett Street

Eldred PA 16731

(814) 817-1380 opt. 1 Fax 225-4917

Lindsay A. Burns, Principal

Kim S. Alfieri, Guidance Counselor

Melissa M. Merry, Director of Curriculum

Otto-Eldred High School

143 R. L. Sweitzer Drive

Duke Center, PA 16729

(814) 817-1380 opt. 2 Fax 966-3911

Harley D. Ramsey, Principal

Martha A. Wolf, Guidance Counselor

Melissa M. Merry, Director of Curriculum

March 16, 2020

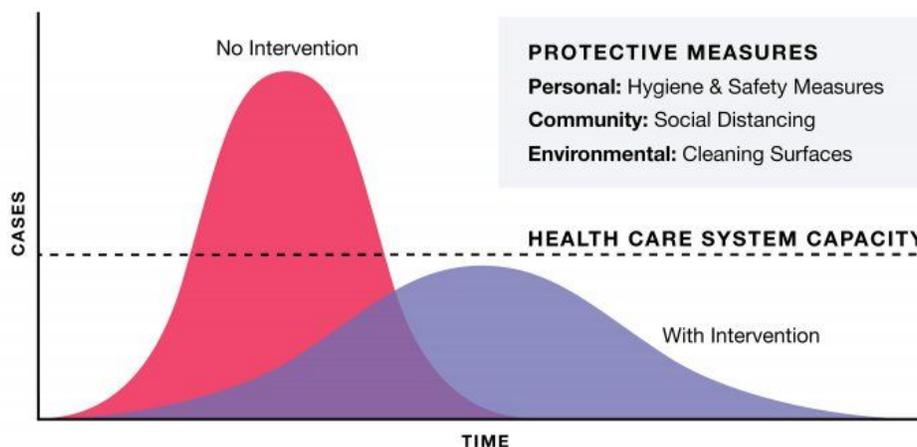
Dear Parents,

Over the next two weeks, Otto-Eldred School District will maintain communication with parents and the community through postings on our web page (www.otteldred.org), through our social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and through direct through calls or mailings.

Our current focus is the health and safety of everyone. The more we can do to help support measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the quicker we can return to our normal daily lives. We have no idea how long this school closure will last. We do know some steps that can be taken to prevent this virus from overwhelming our healthcare system. Beyond good personal hygiene practices, we have all heard the term “Social Distancing” frequently. This simply means avoiding large gatherings and increasing space between you and others in normal social situations. This prevention strategy will reduce the rate at which the virus spreads and increase the effectiveness of other prevention strategies such as good hygiene and thorough cleaning. What this really means for us as parents and community members can be a challenge. Keeping our children away from large groups will be important, especially if our children are at higher risk of spreading the virus. Not allowing our kids to visit a friend’s house may be difficult, but necessary. Without protective actions, the COVID-19 virus could overwhelm our healthcare system. The diagram below is a visual showing the “flattening of the curve” for the number of infections over time.

Flatten the Curve

Collective action can limit the rise of new COVID-19 infections and help hospitals manage increased demand for care.



UCSF

Source: CDC

As for many of the questions you may have, here is a start for some answers:

- If your student needs to pick up any personal items or materials or needs to turn in anything (uniform/equipment/books) to the school, please call the office (817-1380) between 9am-2pm starting on March 17. We will make arrangements to provide a brief opportunity for this to be done on a case by case basis. Otherwise, both buildings will be closed to the public during the school closure.
- Student medications will be available for pick up also. Parents will be contacted directly to set up pick up times.
- We are waiting for further guidance related to making up the 9 missed school days through March 27. There is no definite answer if our school year will need to extend into June.
- Parents will be contacted directly to survey any limitations in internet access across our district.
- The impact on our local events is unknown (games, meets, prom, graduation, etc). Any event scheduled through March 27 is postponed.
- Any parent meeting schedule prior to March 27 or during any school closure will be postponed or done via phone.
- Administration will share an “At Home Learning Menu” for all students. This will be an optional menu of activities for students that can help keep them engaged during this closure. Please limit “screen time” and continue to encourage reading and outdoor physical activity.
- Students currently enrolled in an online course may proceed through the course, but it is not required during the school closure. Waterfront learning will adjust calendars and announce further direction on March 25.
- PSSA and Keystone testing are still scheduled to begin later in April. We will announce any changes as we are notified.