

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Education

7/9/2021

IF YOU HAVE A FOURTH GRADER IN YOUR FAMILY YOU CAN GET INTO ANY STATE PARK FOR FREE THIS SEASON. THAT'S THANKS TO A STATE PROGRAM CALLED THE EVERY KID IN A PARK PASS. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO HELP STUDENTS CONNECT WITH THE OUTDOORS. FOURTH GRADERS CAN GET THE PASS AFTER COMPLETING ONLINE ACTIVITIES. ONCE IT'S PRINTED OUT ANY VEHICLE WITH A FOURTH GRADER INSIDE CAN GAIN ENTRY TO A STATE PARK OR HISTORIC SITE WITHOUT CHARGE. MORE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT [N-Y-S-PARKS-DOT-COM](http://N-Y-S-PARKS-DOT-COM).

8/2/2021

NEW YORK'S RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE IN TROUBLE. THAT'S ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS. THEY SAY SMALL DISTRICTS ACROSS THE STATE HAVE SEEN ENROLLMENT DECLINES OF OVER TEN PERCENT IN THE LAST DECADE, AND MORE STUDENTS ARE LIVING IN POVERTY. RURAL DISTRICTS IN HERKIMER AND ONEIDA COUNTY HAVE SEEN DECLINES OF TWELVE TO FIFTEEN PERCENT AS MORE FAMILIES MOVE OUT OF THE AREA IN SEARCH OF JOBS.

8/18/2021

STUDENTS AND STAFF SHOULD WEAR MASKS IN SCHOOL AND ON BUSES. THAT'S ACCORDING TO NEW GUIDELINES ISSUED BY ONEIDA COUNTY, BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE C-D-C AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THE MASKING RULES APPLY TO EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS. THE COUNTY IS ALSO DISPERSING CLOSE TO SIX MILLION DOLLARS IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO THE ONEIDA HERKIMER MADISON BOCES SYSTEM. THAT MONEY CAN BE USED FOR EVERYTHING FROM VIRUS TESTING TO H-VAC UPGRADES.

8/26/2021

GETTING STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL COULD BE A NIGHTMARE. DISTRICTS ARE SET TO RESUME FULL IN PERSON CLASSES IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS, BUT THEY'RE RUNNING INTO SOME MAJOR ISSUES WITH TRANSPORTATION. THE PROBLEM IS A MASSIVE SHORTAGE OF BUS DRIVERS. COVID-19 SHUT DOWN BUS COMPANIES ACROSS NEW YORK, AND MANY OF THEIR LONG TERM DRIVERS MOVED ON TO OTHER JOBS. SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE JUST STARTED PRACTICE BUS RUNS AND THEY'RE DISCOVERING THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH DRIVERS TO COVER ALL THEIR ROUTES.

8/31/2021

STALEY ELEMENTARY IN ROME WILL NEVER REOPEN. THAT'S ACCORDING TO DISTRICT OFFICIALS. THE BUILDING HAD BEEN UNDERGOING A THOROUGH CLEANING AFTER BEING DAMAGED BY FLOODING TWO WEEKS AGO. DURING THAT PROCESS EXPERTS DETERMINED THE RISK OF FUTURE FLOODING WOULD MAKE THE STRUCTURE A HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARD. THE CLOSURE WILL FORCE THE DISTRICT TO POSTPONE THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR AN ADDITIONAL WEEK, AS THEY REASSIGN STUDENTS TO THE DISTRICTS SIX OTHER SCHOOLS.

9/3/2021

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS FINALLY RELEASED GUIDELINES FOR TESTING TEACHERS AND STAFF AT SCHOOLS. THE RULINGS COME JUST DAYS BEFORE MOST DISTRICTS ACROSS THE STATE ARE SET TO OPEN THEIR DOORS. UNDER THE GUIDELINES SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHO HAVEN'T PROVIDED PROOF OF VACCINATION WILL HAVE TO UNDERGO TESTING WEEKLY. DISTRICTS ALSO NEED TO INSURE THEY HAVE THE TESTING CAPACITY TO HANDLE ANY STUDENTS WHO ARE SYMPTOMATIC OR HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO AN INFECTED INDIVIDUAL.