

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Education

4/12/2021

THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOU'LL SEE SOMETHING THIS MORNING THAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN CLOSE TO A YEAR. SCHOOL BUSES. THEY'LL BE CARRYING STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE START OF THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK. MULTIPLE DISTRICTS IN THE UTICA ROME AREA ARE RESUMING IN PERSON CLASSES TODAY. BUT THINGS WILL BE VERY DIFFERENT THAN THEY WERE A YEAR AGO, WITH NEW MEASURES INCLUDING MANDATORY MASK USE AND SOCIAL DISTANCING IN PLACE TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS.

4/13/2021

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES CAN ATTEND GRADUATION CEREMONIES THIS YEAR. THE BAD NEWS IS THE SIZE OF THOSE GATHERINGS WILL BE STRICTLY LIMITED, AND YOU MAY HAVE TO PROVE YOU'VE BEEN VACCINATED TO ATTEND. THAT'S ACCORDING TO NEW RULES ROLLED OUT BY STATE OFFICIALS YESTERDAY. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE STRICTEST REQUIREMENTS ARE IN PLACE FOR LARGE, INDOOR GATHERINGS. ANY VENUE HOSTING AN EVENT WITH 150 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED TO JUST TEN PERCENT OF NORMAL CAPACITY.

4/19/2021

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A YEAR HIGH SCHOOLS WILL BE HAVING IN-PERSON GRADUATION CEREMONIES. THAT'S WHY THE ONEIDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WILL BE CRACKING DOWN ON YOUNG DRIVERS THIS WEEK. IT'S PART OF THEIR "NO EMPTY SEATS" CAMPAIGN TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE MAKES IT SAFELY TO GRADUATION. THE INITIATIVE KICKS OFF THIS MORNING WITH PATROLS TO ENFORCE SPEED LIMITS IN SCHOOL ZONES. DEPUTIES WILL FOCUS ON A DIFFERENT ASPECT OF DRIVING SAFETY EACH DAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

5/13/2021

SHOULD SCHOOL BUSES BE EQUIPPED WITH WI-FI? IF THE BEEKMANTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ANY INDICATION, THE ANSWER IS YES. LAST YEAR IT SET UP WI-FI HOTSPOTS ON SCHOOL THAT HANDLED STUDENTS WITH THE LONGEST RIDES TO SCHOOL. AS A RESULT, OFFICIALS SAW DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS ON THE BUSES CUT IN HALF AND IMPROVED PERFORMANCE FROM THE STUDENTS INVOLVED. THE SYSTEM ALLOWS STUDENTS TO CONNECT TO THE INTERNET DURING THEIR RIDE, BUT LIMITS THE SITES THEY CAN ACCESS TO APPROVED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.

5/25/2021

NEW YORK IS SPENDING MORE PER PUPIL THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE NATION. THAT'S ACCORDING TO NEW CENSUS FIGURES, WHICH FOUND THE EMPIRE STATE LAYS OUT JUST OVER 25-THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR PER STUDENT. THAT'S JUST SHORT OF DOUBLE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. IN TERMS OF ABSOLUTE DOLLARS NEW YORK CAME IN SECOND, SPENDING 69 BILLION DOLLARS. THAT PUTS IT BEHIND CALIFORNIA'S 81 BILLION DOLLARS, BUT NEW YORK HAS ONLY 2.6 MILLION STUDENTS WHILE CALIFORNIA'S SCHOOLS HANDLE 5.7 MILLION.

5/28/2021

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.

6/7/2021

STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO KEEP THEIR MASKS ON, AT LEAST FOR NOW. ON FRIDAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED THEY WERE LIFTING THE MANDATE THAT ALL STUDENTS WEAR MASKS STARTING TODAY. INSTEAD, THE NEW GUIDANCE SAID THEY WERE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO KEEP WEARING MASKS. YESTERDAY, OFFICIALS ABRUPTLY REVERSED COURSE, REIMPOSING MASK REQUIREMENTS UNTIL THEY HEAR BACK FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL. THE ISSUE SHOULD BE RESOLVED, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, BY THE END OF TODAY.

6/10/2021

WHERE CAN NEW YORK FIND 180-THOUSAND NEW TEACHERS? THAT'S THE QUESTION FACING DISTRICTS ACROSS THE STATE AS THEY FACE A LOOMING SHORTAGE OF EDUCATORS. A THIRD OF THE TEACHERS CURRENTLY IN CLASSROOMS ARE AT LEAST FIFTY YEARS OLD AND APPROACHING RETIREMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS STUDYING FOR A DEGREE IN EDUCATION HAS DROPPED BY HALF IN THE LAST DECADE. EXPERTS SAY CLOSING THE GAP WILL REQUIRE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO ATTRACT AND KEEP EDUCATORS IN NEW YORK.