

# Marcellus Senior High School

John R. Durkee  
Principal

Michael Free  
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1 Mustang Hill  
Marcellus, NY 13108  
315-673-6300

**Week 3-March 30-April 3, 2020**

**Dear Mustang Families,**

I hope this correspondence finds you and your family well. It is hard to believe that it has been three weeks since we abruptly left school and began our Covid-19 journey together. Three weeks ago, a friend taught me how to enlarge the font on my phone to make it easier to read (old age). My response was, "This is life altering!" I have now corrected my definition of life altering in line with our current condition. The complexities of life we faced such a short time ago pale in comparison to our new (and hopefully temporary) way of life.

I liken this situation to moving to a different country, where the language and way of life are very different. It takes time to acculturate and understand. We spend much of our day learning how to learn in the new environment. All while this is going on, we must move forward and anticipate the unexpected.

While all of this sounds like the plot to a sci-fi movie, we must (and I repeat **MUST**) give ourselves grace and forgiveness for any mistakes. Problems will arise with wifi, teacher directions, overlaps of virtual classes, student submission of work. The three greatest strengths we can walk away from this situation with are: **COMMUNICATION SKILLS, PROBLEM-SOLVING ABILITY, AND RESILIENCE.**

### **3rd Marking Period and Spring Break and Impact on the Senior High**

The transition to online school has been difficult for many. We will be closing the 3rd marking period on Friday, April 3rd. However, we will not be closing the gradebooks. During the week of April 6-10, we will limit any new work and leave the week open to getting work made up or getting ahead.

As our Superintendent, Mrs. Brantner mentioned in her letter, the end of the 3rd quarter will be considered a "Hold Harmless" time. Students will receive a grade no lower than their average on March 16th. The work during the closure can only raise a student's grade, not lower it. Those who have worked hard will benefit, those who have had considerable problems will not be punished. Concerns about grades and assignments must be addressed to the teacher first. If you are unsure about anything-communicate with your teachers and problem solve.

Since our current state is changing almost daily (no Spring Break, Spring Break, no Spring Break), it is too early to determine how we will tackle 4th quarter grades. We will continue to assign work, collect, and assess as we have been doing until we receive guidance from the state.

**Connect, Empower Ignite**

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## Graduation and Ball

As of now, we are still planning for both. Additionally, this is the time when many scholarship applications are available. Please make sure you look at Naviance for these opportunities.

## Spring Sports

According to Mr. Free, when we get back, getting back to normal will be a priority. This priority includes some sort of a Spring athletic season.

## Did You Leave Something In School?

The Senior High School is closed to students and visitors, but if students need something out of their lockers, they can email me. I will get what you need and we can arrange an appropriate, socially distanced exchange.

## Remember.....Stay Connected!

Stay connected with your teachers! Stay connected with me! Here are three ways to stay connected: First, go to the school district web page. It is a plethora of information! I will also provide information on the slide show on the Senior High School page. You can also follow me on Instagram. Search @StangPrincipal and follow me. I will post daily. I will also use School Messenger to make calls home if necessary. Additionally, many of your teachers are using Remind and Google Classroom. You can always email me at [jdurkee@marcellusschools.org](mailto:jdurkee@marcellusschools.org).

Your counselors are also available through email or via Remind if you have any concerns. The Remind codes are listed below. Simply text the code to 81010.

Arcese:

2020: @harc

2021: @7ha739e

2022: @3bak8k

2023: @hkdedb6

Battaglia:

2020: @b3f427

2021: @4ce399

2022: @kbattagli

2023: @9f78d3

Baker:

2020: @7dbch4

2021: @akcc3f

2022: @6g698h8

2023: @bb6389

Or Mrs. Hitchcock @ebfbch

Finally, if you do not have any internet access at home, please call the main office at 315-673-6300. We may be able to help.

Most Sincerely,



John R. Durkee  
Senior High School Principal