



Oradell Public School District

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*Our children,
our hope,
our future*

March 10, 2020

Dear OPS Community,

I'm not sure who first said, "You're damned if you do and damned if you don't"; however, I understand that sentiment completely this evening. Over the past ten hours, I've been told that sending students to the show could be the cause of a massive outbreak of coronavirus in our community. I've been told that our children could be the carriers that infect medically fragile adults. I've been told that while parents feel the trip is dangerous, they don't want their child to be the outcast. I've also been told that we are overreacting ... that we should be more concerned about the flu ... and that not going will cause anxiety to grow.

So why cancel? As principal, my first job is to take the information I have and use it to inform decisions that keep students safe. The conservative, safe decision is to minimize crowd settings and not to attend the performance. Additionally, with the River Dell District canceling all trips outside the state, it feels inconsistent as a larger community to not follow a similar protocol.

That being said, I believe parents are the ultimate decision makers for their child. While OPS will not be conducting an approved field trip to the Gershwin Theater tomorrow, I do have 175 non-refundable tickets. If you would still like to attend (utilizing your own transportation) or you are willing to donate your ticket to a family who would like to attend, please complete this [form](#).

I know everyone will have an opinion on this decision. I ask that you understand that it was made with your children and our community's best interests at heart.

Megan N. Bozios