



GREENVILLE

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tammy J. Sutherland
Superintendent of Schools

Daphane Pearson
District Clerk

January 3, 2021

Dear GCS Families,

As we prepare to return from the break, thank you for the cooperation and support that you have provided throughout the past few months. We greatly appreciate the resilience, flexibility and patience you continue to show as we navigate in-person teaching during these challenging times.

Throughout the break, we have been monitoring the pandemic and have been in contact with the local health departments and other schools in our region regarding our ability to reopen schools safely. District administrators have been monitoring infection rates, new COVID-19 cases, tracking students, families and employees who are subject to quarantine requirements and other data throughout the school recess. This morning, schools in Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties continued our regular conversations with the county health departments. Through these conversations we assessed the situation and have made the determination to return to in-person/hybrid learning on January 4.

In retrospect, when we began school in September many believed that we would not make it to Thanksgiving let alone Christmas, before we needed to close and go fully remote. Our entire staff has been working tirelessly to meet all challenges while prioritizing concern for students' safety and education. As a result we made adjustments to address positive cases and succeeded in maintaining in-person and hybrid teaching models for the first four months of school.

The New York State Department of Health and public health experts have said that schools are among the safest places one can be during this pandemic. This is due to our strict health and safety guidelines and the low infection rates in schools. As of today, a total of 20 Greenville CSD employees/students have tested positive for COVID-19 during the 20-21 school year. This includes one additional student and three employees who tested positive this week. With these most recent cases, there was no exposure at school and therefore contact tracing on campus was not required.

Reported COVID Positive Cases - September 1, 2020 - Present

	Employees	Students
Elementary School	4*	6
Middle School	2	1
High School	2	4
Remote		1
Total	8	12

*Includes one per diem (substitute) employee

Students: 8 of the 12 were a set of siblings

Cases still active: 3

All of these positive cases were linked to spread outside of our school. There has been no known spread on campus which helps us to conclude that our safety measures are effective. After assuring the safety of our students and staff, the greatest challenge is providing instruction while faculty and staff are required to quarantine. When we don't have enough teachers/support staff/substitutes to effectively instruct and supervise our students, we must temporarily move to our remote model, which impacts all of our families.

We have prioritized keeping our school buildings open as long as we can do so safely. This is a shared responsibility among our school and community. With the increasing number of COVID cases in both Albany and Greene Counties, we are asking you to be even more diligent in filling out the health screening questionnaire for your child, before sending them to school. In addition to taking their temperature, it is equally important to ask them how they are feeling. If they are experiencing even mild symptoms (fever, sore throat, cough, headache, diarrhea, vomiting, or a stomachache) have them stay home, reach out to one of our school nurses and seek the advice of your child's health care provider. In addition, if you have traveled over the break, it is imperative that you follow the [NYS travel restrictions](#).

Please continue to protect those around you by wearing your mask, washing your hands, staying six feet apart, and maintaining a small social bubble. These measures are crucial in combating the spread of this virus.

The District continues to work with the local health departments to ensure that we are following their recommendations. If you have not already done so, please fill out the [testing consent Google form](#). Your consent for testing will be needed if our district is designated as being in a yellow, orange or red zone.

We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust our learning models as needed. While we've made this determination at this point, everyone should realize and be prepared that as cases increase, our District may be forced to shift to remote instruction. All families need to be prepared for this change should it become necessary.

I hope that you enjoyed a peaceful, healthy and safe holiday break with your families. Again thank you for your support and patience.

Sincerely,

Tammy J. Sutherland
Superintendent of Schools