

GLOVERSVILLE ENLARGED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 24, 2021

David Halloran
Superintendent

Dear Families of the Gloversville Enlarged School District:

This weekend we learned of five new positive COVID-19 cases among our staff. Three of the staff members work at Park Terrace, one at Boulevard and one at Gloversville Middle School. We have no reason to believe that any of these cases were transmitted while at school, and confirmed that two of the cases came from the home. Two additional staff members are required to quarantine as a result of the cases at Park Terrace, one staff member and five students at Boulevard, and the Middle School case will result in fourteen staff and twenty-six students required to quarantine. In all, twenty-two staff members and thirty-one students will be in quarantine this week. All are slated to return to school the first week of February.

Prior to these new cases, the district was poised to see all students and staff off quarantine on Monday, January 25, 2021. We were looking forward to this date, as it would have signified locally, what the national and state trends indicate, which is that virus transmission is on the decline. Alas, that is not the case for us yet, and we will continue to navigate the pandemic as we have throughout the school year. The district will continue to make decisions based on facts, rather than fear. We will continue to adhere to our reopening protocols that have served us so well since September, and we will continue to champion the importance of in-person instruction for the sake of our students.

Throughout this ordeal, facts have shown that schools are one of the safest places children can be. Here in Gloversville, we will continue to do all we can to remain open to serve the academic, social and emotional needs of our students. We respect the decision some families have made in selecting remote instruction for their children, and expect our staff to engage those students and meet their needs as best we can. That said, we have far too many fully remote students with poor attendance, who are simply not staying up on their course work. This is very disheartening and we implore their parents and guardians to work with teachers, counselors and administrators to address these valid concerns.

The staff of GESD looks forward to getting all students back in our schools every day. It is what our children need. Someday soon, the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic will pass and we will all breathe a collective sigh of relief. Until then, let us all continue to do our part to keep ourselves and others healthy without sacrificing the educational opportunities of our students.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. J. Halloran', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

David Halloran
Superintendent of Schools