



# TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**TIMOTHY A. OLDENBURG, Ed.D.**  
**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

May 17, 2021

Dear Tonawanda City School District Students, Families, and Staff:

Thank you for your continued support, trust, and flexibility with the requirements mandated for schooling during the 2020-2021 academic year. Our district has worked to communicate consistently and timely as we have accepted the changes, protocols, and policies established by the NYS Department of Health and the Governor's Office through this pandemic period.

Our district is proud that beginning on Thursday, May 20, 2021, all of our hybrid students in grades UPK-12 will have returned to their school in a traditional 5-day per week schedule. Remote Warrior students will continue their fully remote instructional program throughout the end of this school year. As educators, this has been our goal since the first day of schools transitioning to remote instruction in March 2020.

## **UPDATES:**

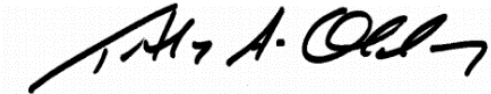
- Public schools **MUST** continue to follow the NYS Department of Health and NYS Education department guidance. Despite recent changes in the CDC guidance regarding mask wearing and social distancing, the requirements for public schools is solely dependent upon the guidance from the NYSDOH, the Governor's Office, and the NYSED. **To be clear, our schools MUST require students and staff to wear a mask at all times and to maintain a three or six foot distance depending on the situation.** Updated guidance and changes to protocols will be communicated and implemented as soon as these potential changes are made by the governing institutions.
- **Our district will be honoring our senior students with a prom and graduation.** Our district **MUST** continue to follow the NYS guidance for these school functions. Although updated guidance for public events and public ceremonies has changed, we are bound to the guidance developed for prom and graduation from the NYSDOH. More details will be shared by the Senior Class Officers and Mr. Brown, High School Principal, very soon. The decisions made by these leaders were based on the current and required guidance and the goal of including as many people as possible.
- **The TONA2020 Elementary School Consolidation Capital Project is on schedule.** At the end of this school year, Fletcher Elementary School will be closed and significant demolition and construction will begin in July. Work has begun at Riverview and Mullen Elementary Schools to install temporary classrooms for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be attending a separate wing in the Middle School during this construction period for the next two school years. Due to the changes in student

attendance by grade level in these buildings there will be some program modifications due to the constraints and logistics of our operations during this construction period. Our goal will be to continue to offer as many opportunities to our students as possible. Our principals will be holding parent meetings for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade families in the coming weeks. Please look for this information from your current school principal.

It has been a long time coming for our district to be returning students to school in a traditional format. Additionally, there are many things happening in our district as we begin to plan for the conclusion of this school year and prepare for the 2021-2022 school year. This pandemic period has been difficult for all of us. However, our continued teamwork, respect, and understanding of the unique and various challenges each of us face will be what is most remembered after we move past this pandemic period and this incredible capital project is completed.

Please contact your building principal with any questions you may have. Go Warriors!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy A. Oldenburg", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools