

# LOWVILLE ACADEMY and CENTRAL SCHOOL

7668 NORTH STATE STREET  
LOWVILLE, NEW YORK 13367-1328

Fax: 315-376-1933 Net: [www.lowvilleacademy.org](http://www.lowvilleacademy.org)

REBECCA DUNCKEL-KING  
Superintendent of Schools  
Telephone: 315-376-9000

SCOTT D. EXFORD  
Middle School Principal  
Telephone: 315-376-9010

BRIAN E. FINN  
High School Principal  
Telephone: 315-376-9015

PHILOMENA B. GOSS  
Elementary School Principal  
Telephone: 315-376-9005



June 17, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caretakers:

As the year comes to a close, I reflect on the 2020-2021 school year in gratitude. The support and partnership between the district and the parents throughout this school year was paramount to the success of our students. Certainly, this partnership was critical as we faced the challenges of operating our school in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. While I wish the most relaxing of summers for each of our students for showing such resilience over the school year, it is important to be sure I keep you updated regarding our plans for the 2021-2022 school year.

### **Instructional Model:**

On June 7, 2021, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) published a guidance document titled "Interim Guidance For In-Person Instruction At Pre-K To Grade 12 Schools During The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency". Under this guidance, *we are confident that we will be able to return all students to in-person instruction every day during the 2021-2022 school year*. The change in guidance that has the greatest impact is moving from 6 feet of distance to 3 feet of distance between students. We expect that some restrictions in regard to transportation, food service and distancing will continue.

### **Transportation:**

Currently, NYSDOH requires all students to wear facemasks while traveling on the school bus. While the district is unsure if there will be flexibility with this later in the fall, parents should be prepared for students to wear facemasks if they are being transported on school buses.

### **Food Service:**

The six feet of distance between students while eating is still a requirement for the upcoming school year. Our hope is for that distance to shrink to three feet before the fall. However, regardless of the distance of students, we'll have the opportunity to eat breakfast and lunch at school.

### **Distancing and Face Masks:**

Currently, Lewis County has been designated as having a *moderate* chance of transmission of COVID-19. With this designation comes an easing of the six feet of distancing requirement down to three feet. This is for all grade levels, Pre-K through 12. Students will not be required

to wear facemasks outside and will only be required to wear them inside if they are not distanced from another student or adult. Again, this is a requirement from NYSDOH, not an additional precaution added by the district. Please read the specific verbiage.

*“Responsible Parties must maintain protocols and procedures for students, faculty, staff, and other individuals to ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is used to protect against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus when in indoor school facilities. Specifically, appropriate PPE means, at least, an acceptable mask, which is required to be worn by all individuals in all classroom and non-classroom settings, including but not limited to hallways, school offices, restrooms, gyms, auditoriums, etc. All visitors must wear masks.”*

**Screening:**

NYS school districts continue to be required to screen all students and adults for COVID symptoms who are entering the building.

**Communication Plan:**

We believe that our parents need a reliable means of getting consistent and accurate information from LACS. To combat the misinformation that circulates on different media platforms, it is important that we get the correct information to our families. During the weeks leading up to the start of school and in the months that follow, you can expect information to be available on the following formats:

1. Lowville Academy and Central School’s Facebook, Twitter and Website
2. Phone Calls
3. Text Notifications
4. Email
5. Letters

Please remember that unless you receive information in one of these formats from the school district, we can’t assure its accuracy.

The Covid Recovery Committee will meet throughout the summer to address specific details and will continue to seek input from our families. We are excited to plan for a full return to school and anticipate the continued success our district has come to expect.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Dunckel-King  
Superintendent of Schools