



# TUXEDO UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Tuxedo Parents, Students and Community,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We have all been working very hard over the summer to make this a successful year for our students and, with much excitement, we look forward to seeing them when school re-opens on September 1st. I have also enjoyed meeting and working with the many dedicated and exceptionally competent professional faculty and staff members in our District these past two months. I look forward to our maintaining a long and harmonious relationship.

After a lengthy and arduous experience with COVID-19 and remote and hybrid learning, I am sure we are all grateful and relieved to be returning to full in-person instruction.

The health and safety of our students and staff remain our number one priority. To that end, we have established multiple mitigation strategies to address the resurging Coronavirus. We will continue to follow the guidance and recommendations of the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (DOH), the New York State Education Department (NYSED), Orange County Department of Health (OU DOH) and of course, any executive orders issued by our new governor, Kathy Hochul. More about this below.

## **Information Packet**

Included in this packet are a series of informational documents and forms. We encourage you to read them, and appreciate you completing and returning the forms by the first week of school. Please also check our website [tuxedoufsd.org](https://tuxedoufsd.org) regularly for updated information.

## **Academic Continuity and Supports to Address Issues Resulting from COVID-19**

Interventions will be implemented to support students who may have struggled academically, socially or emotionally during the pandemic period ranging from March 2020 through the fall of 2021. As students return, we will offer various supplemental programs in all academic areas (i.e. writing revolution, and reading interventions including decoding and academic vocabulary). We will continue to work with our students, and train our teachers to meet all of their needs to address any learning loss.

## **Facilities**

Our facilities are receiving some finishing touches and will be ready for the first day of school. They have been carefully cleaned, and painted, with some minor repairs having been completed. We are planning more extensive work on them later this year so stay tuned for more information. Regular cleaning and disinfecting will be performed daily, and as needed.

## **Food Service**

The federal government through the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the summer food service program (SFSP) through the 2021/22 school year. That means that students will be offered **FREE MEALS** for the entire

year! Please take advantage of this benefit.

## **Athletics**

We strongly encourage all of our students to participate in the athletic program. Although the High School sports program started on Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> it is not too late to join one of these teams/individual sports. The fall high school sports offerings include varsity boys and girls cross-country, varsity and junior varsity (JV) girls volleyball.

The modified teams will start the first week of school and will include modified soccer, and modified volleyball for grades 7-9.

Other information regarding our athletic program including the health and safety plan can be found on the athletic web site: [TUXEDO UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETICS | Tuxedo Union Free School District \(tuxedoufsd.org\)](https://tuxedoufsd.org)

## **Transportation**

Bus schedules have been finalized and are now available. Please see our transportation website at: [TUXEDO UFSD Bus Routes 2021-2022.pdf \(core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/TUXEDO_UFSD_Bus_Routes_2021-2022.pdf)

## **Superintendent Conference Day**

We are almost fully staffed and will conduct professional development for the staff over two superintendent conference days which will be held on August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> with school officially starting on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Summary COVID-19 Protocols**

According to the Orange County Department of Health (<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/vaccination-rates-zip-code>), Tuxedo has one of the highest rates of vaccination with 99.6% of residents having received at least one dose of vaccine and 94% with a complete vaccine series. We are hoping that the community's proactive response to stopping the spread will bode well for our students this upcoming school year. According to the CDC "vaccination is currently the leading health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic."

That being said, those who have been vaccinated may still spread the new delta variant of the virus. As such, the District will be implementing multiple mitigation strategies including masking and social distancing.

All students, faculty and staff will be required to wear masks. Masks may be removed while outdoors or while working alone in an office. Students may remove masks when eating lunch but should put their masks back on afterwards while awaiting dismissal from lunch.

Everyone should have a mask to wear and at least one extra. Masks should completely cover the nose and the mouth, fit snugly against the side of the face with no gap. Reusable masks should be washed regularly. Please note that gaiters, bandanas, mesh masks or masks that contain a vent or exhalation valve are not acceptable for use in school. For more information, please see the District's Reopening Plan at <https://5il.co/iycq>.

On a personal note I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the warm welcome and kind words I have received from the local and school community. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve as your superintendent.

I hope you enjoy the final days of the summer of 2021!



Jeffrey T. White, Superintendent of Schools

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