



OWEN D. YOUNG CENTRAL SCHOOL
P.O.BOX 125
VAN HORNESVILLE, N.Y. 13475-0125
Mr. Brennan Fahey, Superintendent of Schools

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August 24, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone had a healthy and a joyful summer vacation. As the summer quickly comes to an end and we prepare for your children to return I write this letter as a summary of things to expect this coming school year.

The Owen D. Young School District is working to develop plans for the 2021-22 school year. A few weeks ago the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York State Education Department released guidelines for schools to follow while establishing plans for all students to return to schools in-person this fall.

Throughout last school year and in the spring we surveyed parents and faculty regarding what worked last year, what didn't and if possible what we should change. Using this information, as well as, feedback gathered through conversations with parents, faculty and students a plan to return to full school days with every student in attendance was created. This will be a flowing document posted on our website under Continuity of Learning as was done last school year. As conditions change we will need to adapt the plan so please refer to our website if you have questions or call the school directly.

In this letter I will highlight a few of the key points for this school year. Like last school year we will be using a layered approach to ensure our students safety. If research over the past year has taught us anything it is that no one precaution is completely effective but that a series of things when taken together are the best method in ensuring everyone's safety. As a result, the following protocols will be used on a daily basis.

- Face masks must be worn by all regardless of vaccination status while on school buses, in halls, classrooms or any other space inside. Students, at this time, may remove facemasks while outside as long as they are physically active.
- Students will be socially distanced at least 3 feet at all times while inside throughout the school day.
- While seated to eat students will remove masks but must have them on when in line to get food or getting up for any reason.
- Parents will be required to take their children's temperature daily and ensure they do not have a temperature of 100F or any COVID-19 symptoms. In the event of a high temperature or other symptoms parents are required to keep their children home.

- In addition, the CDC, New York State Department of Education and Herkimer County Department of Health all encourage anyone age 12 and up to get vaccinated for COVID-19. Individuals who are vaccinated will have reduced quarantine mandates compared to individuals unvaccinated.
- Once again this school year we will not be able to accept bus notes. Each parent will need to designate a single pick-up/drop off location in the morning and evening for the year. The guidelines require we minimize the mixing of student populations to limit exposure. As a result, any changes in where you need your child to go each day after school will need to be organized on your end from that drop-off point. I realize this is difficult for many parents and I appreciate your continued cooperation. Please contact the school if there is a change in your child's pick up or drop off location from last year.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the school building during the 2021-22 school year. Visitors will be held in the main entry. If picking up a child during the school day the child will be brought to you.
- If you intend on picking up your child at the end of the school day we will need advanced notification or they will be placed on their normally scheduled bus.
- We will be returning to a traditional 5 day schedule. Students can be dropped off starting at 7:50 with student pickup beginning at 3:05. Buses will leave at 3:10.
- In the event we do have a case of COVID-19 in school the county will be working with us to communicate impacted individuals and any quarantine requirements. We will be having assigned seats in classrooms, the cafeteria and on buses to assist in contact tracing. Individuals within a 6 foot radius of an infected individual will be the starting point for the county in making determinations.

As the school year progresses and we learn more about requirements or changes we will communicate as soon as possible to give you the best chance to plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns as we move forward with the 2021-22 school year.

Sincerely,


Brennan M. Fahey