



Dear Stanley G. Falk School Families,

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well. As we continue our third week of the 2020 Falk Summer Session, I would like to update you on our plans for the fall. As you know, there continues to be concerns and questions related to how schools plan to reopen in September. The Falk School is committed to planning a return to school with safety as our first priority. The Stanley G. Falk School Reopening Advisory Committee is working hard to make the best decisions possible for our return to school. These decisions are based on the following guiding principles:

- Caring for students and adults
- Prioritizing student learning and ensuring effective teaching
- Operating efficiently, effectively, and responsibly

New York State has announced that schools will be allowed to open if their region is in Phase 4 with a daily infection rate of less than 5% using a 14-day average. Assuming that the Buffalo area continues on its successful trajectory, Stanley G. Falk School is hopeful that we will be able to begin school in person. Our desire is to return to school with enhanced safety and cleaning protocols. That being said, we must be proactive and prepared during these ever-changing times to continue educating our students if and when circumstances change throughout the year related to the health and safety of our students and employees. The Stanley G. Falk School Reopening Plan will include three possible models for learning:

- 1) **The Enhanced Falk Way Model:** We will continue our Falk School program as normal with enhanced safety precautions in place such as temperature checks and health screenings, hand sanitizer availability, increased frequency of cleaning of high touch areas, and limited visitation to our school campuses. It is hopeful that with these preventative measures, we could avoid the transition to a hybrid or full distance learning environment. While this is our hope for September, any Executive Orders from the Governor, or guidance from the CDC, the New York State Education Department and the Erie County Health Department will drive any decision to return to school in this format.
- 2) **The Falk Way Hybrid Model:** This model would be a combination of remote and in-person instruction with increased safety and cleaning measures. This would only be enacted if the Governor's Executive Order required us to maintain an increased social distance and to limit the number of people in classrooms and on campuses.
- 3) **The Falk Way @ Home Model:** All students would participate in the remote learning of new material, continued standards-based instruction, interactive lessons, graded assignments, and assessments. This would only be enacted if the Governor's Executive Order closed schools again due to public health concerns.

We aim for a return to school that creates the best, safest possible circumstances for teaching and learning. From our student and parent survey results, we know that the large majority of Falk families are eager to resume in-person instruction. Although Stanley G. Falk School virtual learning allowed for

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continuity of instruction, we all recognize the richness of learning and social-emotional growth that come from being together. If you will be electing not to have your child return to in-person instruction, please email us no later than August 14, at reopening@falkschool.com. We have also reopened the parent survey for those that have not had a chance to share your thoughts. If you would like to complete the survey, [CLICK HERE](#). We also appreciate the input of our students. Please encourage your child to complete the student survey. To access the student survey, [CLICK HERE](#).

The New York State Education Department has written specific guidance for Special Education Schools like the Falk School. We are still awaiting the release of the guidance for additional clarification in finalizing our reopening plan. The Stanley G. Falk School is required to submit our detailed plan to New York State by July 31, at which point we will share this plan with you.

As we prepare for reopening on September 8, 2020, we recommend that you stay mindful of New York State's mandatory quarantine policy for people traveling in from the identified states. We hope for all students to be healthy and safe in the coming weeks so that we can welcome you into our classrooms. To view our 2020-2021 instructional calendar please visit the Falk School website at www.falkschool.com, or [CLICK HERE](#).

Thank you for your flexibility and continued support during this challenging time. As a school community, we look forward to providing the much needed structure and support that our students and families have experienced in past years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachael Greene". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "G".

Rachael Greene
Interim Superintendent
Stanley G. Falk School