

WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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August 19, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope the last few days of summer vacation are wonderful for you and your families. Based on the guidance from Dutchess County Department of Health and other State agencies, school will reopen for students on **September 7, 2021**. District protocols will allow us to begin with *all students participating in in-person instruction five days per week*. This has been our primary goal for beginning the school year.

Below is a brief synopsis of the plan. You may review the full plan at the following link: www.webutuckschools.org

Daily Health Screening: The CDC nor the State Education Department require the daily health screening questionnaire or taking of temperatures upon arrival that was in place this past year. Although we will not be screening or taking temperatures, we do ask that parents take a proactive approach in monitoring their child's temperature and keep them home if they have a fever or any other COVID related symptoms.

Return to School following a positive test: We will follow the same protocols that were in place last year on the recommendation of the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health. If an individual tests positive for COVID, they must quarantine for a minimum of ten days and until they no longer are exhibiting symptoms.

Masks: We will require all staff, students, and visitors to be properly masked at all times while indoors. The exception, of course, will be while eating meals and during mask breaks. We will once again direct teachers to give students mask breaks a minimum of five minutes per hour. We will establish a procedure for monitoring these breaks.

Social Distancing: A minimum of three feet in all directions will be maintained when possible, with six feet during band, chorus, and aerobic activities.

Remote Instruction: Remote instruction will not be offered this year. The expectation is that all students will attend school in person.

Quarantines: The guidelines for quarantine have changed. If a student is in close proximity to a student who tests positive, and both are properly and continuously masked, the non-positive contact will not have to be quarantined. In addition, we will not have to quarantine whole classrooms, only those students who have close continuous, unmasked contact with an infected person. We are hoping for minimal quarantines, however, if we have to quarantine a student(s) they will receive their school work online with teacher support.

Transportation: All students and staff on buses will be masked at all times. Social distancing will be maintained to the extent possible.

Athletics: We await final guidelines from Section IX, but their draft guidance indicates that all sports will be allowed with spectators. All people at indoor events would be masked, outdoor events would be optional.

School Meals: School breakfast and lunch will continue to be no charge for students for this school year. There will be no meal delivery.

Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfection: Our program of daily cleaning and disinfection will continue both in school and on the buses.

Visitors: All visitors to the schools will be required to make an appointment in advance.

Screening and Testing: COVID-19 screening testing of unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff may be implemented, to the extent necessary to protect the health and safety of the school community. This topic will be subject to further discussion as additional guidance is released from New York State Health and Education Departments.

Be well and stay safe,

Raymond Castellani
Superintendent