



Walton Central School District

Michael A. MacDonald, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools

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Corey Phraner
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Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and yours well.

I am sure you are anxiously waiting for details about what school will look like with the most recent news surrounding COVID-19 and new variants. We have been waiting for directions so we can establish a safe environment with a focus on the highest level of normalcy we can provide for our students.

We have received guidance from the New York State Education Department which has directed school districts to reopen using the current CDC guidelines, as well as local department of health recommendations. We have reviewed this guidance and completed the necessary adjustments to our procedures to create an addendum to the 2020-21 reopening plan.

Key points:

1. School will be in-person for all students five (5) days per week. No remote learning option will be offered (student medical exemption application process is available).
2. Masks must be worn on bus transportation: all students will be required to wear masks while riding the bus, unless medically unable. Self-transport is encouraged. All bus students will be contacted in the upcoming weeks to confirm transportation needs. Due to cohorting of students to meet contact tracing per Department of Health requirements, transportation needs to be limited to the same pick-up and drop-off location daily (may be a different location in the morning and/or afternoon, but the same daily).
3. Face coverings/social distancing: the expectation for face covering (covering nose and mouth) by students (all individuals on district property) is that in the instances where appropriate social distance (six [6] feet between adults and students; three [3] feet or greater between students) cannot be maintained, a face covering must be worn covering nose and mouth. No face coverings need to be worn outdoors. Students will have their face coverings removed for a major portion of the day when social/physical distancing is occurring. Teachers and administration will provide direction and training to

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students on the expectation. If there are individual concerns and/or questions regarding face coverings, please contact the appropriate building principal.

4. Daily health screenings will not be required but parents are asked to keep students exhibiting symptoms home.

This is not the status that any of us want to be in. However, we need to get through this by supporting each other and ensuring that the school environment is safe, nurturing, and engaging for our students, while maintaining compliance with NYS Education Department direction. I am proud of the opportunities and our safety record from last year and am confident that we can work together to have an even more successful year this year!

Once you are able to look over the reopening plan, please feel free to reach out to your child(ren)'s building principal, or me, with any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Michael A. MacDonald, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools