Walton Central School District

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

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Corey Phraner
District Clerk

September 6, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and yours well.

As many of you are aware, NYS Department of Health issued ***Interim Guidance for Classroom Instruction in P-12 Schools During the 2021-22 Academic Year***. The *WCS Reopening Plan Addendum 21-22* has been updated to align with the recently released NYSDOH school guidelines. The largest adjustment to the plan is the requirement for all individuals to be masked, regardless of vaccination status, while in a school facility or transportation. Exceptions to being masked include times eating, drinking, singing, playing wind instruments, and during times of directed mask breaks. Masks remain optional outdoors.

A stricter level of safety precautions is not what any of us were hoping to face entering into the school year. However, the Delta Variant is spreading rapidly and is infecting school aged individuals at a much higher level than last year as well as infecting both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. As a result, we will be starting the year with increased safety requirements but will hopefully see a reduction in those requirements if the infection rate doesn't increase when school begins.

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 NYSDOH and NYS Education Department directives. I am proud of the student 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!

As always we appreciate the ongoing support and ask that you continue to keep students home when not feeling well. Additionally, please seek medical attention if the symptoms are consistent with symptoms of COVID-19.

Take care, stay safe, and contact a building principal or me with any questions or concerns.
Sincerely,



Michael A. MacDonald, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools