



Sandy Creek Central School District

“Comet Pride is Community-Wide!”

July 31, 2020

Kyle L. Faulkner
Superintendent of Schools

Shelley H. Fitzpatrick
Business Administrator

Board of Education:

John Shelmidine
President

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Vice-President

Mark Haynes
Joseph Hathway
Heidi Metott
Andrea Harris
Michele Warner

Timothy Filiatrault
Elementary School Principal

Amy Molloy
Middle School Principal

Kevin Seymour
High School Principal

Amy Howard-
McCormack
Dir. of Curriculum & Inst.

Sandy Creek Central School Districts Parents and Community,

While our entire country is working through this pandemic, we have been diligently working on developing a district-wide reopening plan in a very collaborative and thoughtful way. Since our transition to remote learning last March, we have been reflecting and planning for an eventual return to school. In reviewing the recent New York State Education Department (NYSED) and New York Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidelines, there are numerous mandates that need to be implemented in order to reopen our school safely. Additionally, sometime between August 1 and August 7, Governor Cuomo will be announcing if “in-person” instruction will be permitted based on infection rate data within the Central NY Region.

We currently have a Sandy Creek Reorganizational Committee (ROC), consisting of 30 key stakeholders that include administrators, teachers, support staff, other professionals, parents, students, and community members. This team has been hard at work reviewing mandates, asking important questions, looking at parent/staff response surveys, and trying to plan for multiple instructional models. We really want all of our students and staff back in our buildings this fall.

Per New York State Education Department (NYSED) guidance, we need to submit a plan that includes all three of the following instructional models:

- In-person Model: Students physically attend school using social distancing guidelines.
- Hybrid Model: A combination of remote and in-person learning (given space and staff constraints)
- Remote Model: (all learning done remotely)

It is important to emphasize that all students will engage in learning every day, whether it be an in-school or an at-home remote school day. Attendance will be taken daily. Efforts will be made to keep families with children in multiple buildings on the same schedule to assist with transportation, childcare, and related challenges. In addition to the above, we are preparing all staff and students to transition to full remote learning should county health officials or the Governor close schools, due to the pandemic, at any given time.



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We are committed to developing plans based on Social Distancing Guidelines – 6 feet of separation. We are striving to allow for as much in-person learning as possible, but we are required to plan with distancing constraints (space and staff). Given these constraints, we are prioritizing maximizing in-person options based on developmental appropriateness, students within self-contained classrooms, and special education students.

We are still collecting parent/guardian surveys. As of July 24, 2020, we had collected information for 75% of our students. To ensure that all families were able to complete, we also mailed out written versions of the survey to the remaining families. Thank you for your feedback, as it continues to guide us in the decision-making process.

The following is the timeline for communicating our plan:

- Friday, 7/31 – plan must be submitted to New York State Education Department (NYSED), New York Department of Health (NYDOH), and be posted to our District website

We will keep you posted through these updates and may also ask you to provide direct input via surveys/requests in the near future and throughout the coming months. We are in this together, and we're going to need to continue to work together as partners for a successful reopening to the 2020-2021 school year. Thank you for your continued input, understanding, and overall support during this unprecedented time.

Please know that this planning might need to be adjusted or changed based on NYS mandates. Over the next month, more information will be shared with you. During this time and in preparation for reopening this fall, we ask that you work with your children on hand washing, social distancing, and wearing a mask. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kyle L. Faulkner