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Sandy Creek Central School District "Comet Pride is Community-Wide!"

August 13, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope you are having a safe and relaxing summer!

School districts across New York State have been waiting patiently for guidance from the Governor or the New York State Department of Health regarding the opening of school. Last week, districts were informed that neither the Governor nor the Department of Health (DOH) will be providing reopening guidelines for schools and that decisions would be left to local county health departments and school districts. Additionally, we learned recently that the Oswego County Department of Health would not be providing reopening guidance to school districts. It was recommended that we should be discussing reopening plans with our district medical provider.

After considering recommendations from our district's medical director, in alignment with the updated Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 schools and in light of Oswego County recently being identified as a county with "substantial" COVID-19 spread, the following are the district procedures which will go into effect for the fall:

*All K-12 students will attend in-person learning 5 days a week for the full day. Pre-K students will attend their ½ day program every day.

*Masks are required for all individuals (faculty, staff, and students) for all indoor events (including classroom instruction) regardless of vaccination status.

- Masks may be removed for eating.
- Masks may be removed for breaks when provided by a staff member.

• Masks may be removed when you are alone in a classroom or office. Masks must be put back on when any other individual enters your classroom or office.

*Masks are NOT required for outdoor events.

• This includes recess, physical education classes, athletics, etc. when outdoors.

*Masks are required for all individuals when on buses.

• We will be transporting ALL students as previous regulations regarding social distancing on buses is no longer required.

*All extra-curricular activities are anticipated to be available for our students to participate in.

This could change if cases continue to rise in the county.

Our goal for this school year is to get our students back into our classrooms full-time and participate in all of the very important extracurricular activities that are available. However, please understand that things may change in the future based on guidance we receive or community spread of the virus.

As always, our number one goal is to keep our students and staff safe. I am hopeful that we can lift these procedures as soon as the virus is under control.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and as always, thank you for your continued support as we get through this pandemic together.

Sincerely,

Kyle *L.* Faulkner Kyle L. Faulkner Superintendent