



Hamburg Central School District

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Administration Building

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July 21, 2020

Dear Hamburg Central School District Families,

I hope everyone remains safe and well. The purpose of this letter is to give you another update regarding our planning process for restarting school in September. Since my last update to you, we learned that all school districts must submit their reopening plans to the New York State Education Department by July 31. Given this very small window within which to complete this work, it is important to recognize the more than 100 employees, parents, and Board Members from across our district who have joined us in this effort. Their expertise will help us plan within this small window of time according to three key priorities:

- The safety, learning and social/emotional needs of more than 4,000 students and staff
- Meeting the requirements as set forth by the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Education
- The need to adapt quickly according to the changing nature of the broader health crisis we face

To date, our Board of Education, our stakeholder committee (including a physician), each of the three specially designed working groups, and our Administrative Council, have all met to engage in dialogue around how to safely and sustainably restart school in September. Three key themes have emerged so far:

- We need to do all we can to very quickly normalize certain hygiene-related behaviors among our staff and students so that we can be safe during in-person instruction
- Our entire school community must be united in supporting each other through the next several months. Under any plan or circumstances, things will be challenging and uncomfortable for all of us, so we need to be flexible and understanding.
- Our actions during the Covid-era need to support the commitments embedded in our HCSD Strategic Plan, so that the DNA of our organization remains the foundation for our work on behalf of young people and their families.

Last week, we received health and safety guidance from the New York State Department of Health, and information about regulatory relief from the New York State Education Department, as well as a final comprehensive document from NYSED that folds all of the requirements and guidance from both agencies together. This week, each of our three working groups will meet again to fold our work into the state guidance. Next week, our stakeholder committee will meet, and the Board of Education will engage with our reopening plans during our annual Board Retreat. Our leadership team will incorporate all of this thinking into the plan that we'll develop and submit to the New York State Education Department on July 31.

Be assured that we will communicate our completed plan to everyone once we submit it. More importantly, we will work tirelessly to do what it takes to safely serve children and families with care, dedication and excellence, regardless of the circumstances.

Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Cornell
Superintendent of Schools