



Hamburg Central School District

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Administration Building

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August 31, 2020

Dear Hamburg Central School District Families,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the last full week of summer vacation. The purpose of this letter is to share important information regarding the opening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Most importantly, please know that we are excited to welcome your children back to school according to our four school reopening priorities of safety, equity, adaptability and full compliance.

I want to begin by highlighting the dedication and professionalism of the employees of the Hamburg Central School District. From the initial transition from in-person to remote learning in the spring, to the work that our 12-month employees have done over the past several months to make sure that we are ready to open school next week, our team has risen to every challenge. In addition, I am pleased to let you know that more than 97% of our teachers and teacher aides are returning to our campuses to work in-person with our students. There is no group of educators more dedicated to the learning and growth of the children whom they serve than those who work here in Hamburg.

Please note the following operational details as we prepare for the beginning of instruction for all students:

- Please keep in mind that our educators will place a high priority on the social and emotional health of your child(ren) when we return to school. This emphasis will take many forms, will be done thoughtfully, and is necessary to help every child transition successfully back to school.
- District-provided masks will be distributed on the first day of in-person learning for each cohort.
- We have taken great care to create a positive learning community for remote learners and to customize schedules according to needs of students enrolled in our 100% online learning program. However, as is the case under any scheduling scenario, we may not be able to satisfy every course request for secondary students in the 100% online learning environment. Please speak to your child's counselor if you have any questions. Also, our District Curriculum Coordinator, Kaitlin Sylvester will serve as the Principal of the 100% online learning program.
- We will notify families as soon as the transportation letters for students who take the bus to school are available on the Parent Portal.
- All families will receive your usual beginning-of-the-year communication from the principal at your child's school before the first day of in-person instruction so that school-specific expectations and protocols (such as arrival and dismissal procedures) are clearly outlined.
- Secondary school schedules will be available on the Parent Portal by the end of the week. We appreciate everyone's patience as we recreate the master schedules at each school to accommodate Hybrid learning and appropriate social Distancing in every classroom.

- All families will receive information before the first day of in-person learning regarding CareMonkey, the application that we'll use for daily temperature check for students. We selected this particular product because of its security features and the ease of use for the end user.

Finally, we need to remember that regardless of how careful we are, it is possible that a member of our school community may test positive for COVID-19 at some point. If it happens, please keep the following in mind:

- We should not automatically assume that the person contracted the infection from school, especially if the case is present very early in the school year.
- As a result of being vigilant in implementing the NYS Department of Health safety guidelines (less density, social distancing, masking, excellent cleaning protocols, personal hand hygiene, health checks, etc.), we hope that it will be difficult for the infection to spread in school.
- Because it is possible that the infected person contracted COVID-19 at a place other than school and because we have implemented the necessary safety measures, we remain very hopeful that one case of COVID will not require that we close school.

Importantly, any large scale (quarantine of a class, school closing, etc.) response to the presence of COVID-19 in our schools will be done in close cooperation with the Erie County Department of Health, the NYS Department of Health and the NYS Education Department. Our complete guide to in-building health protocols and how we'll manage the circumstance of a positive COVID-19 test can be found [here](#).

We will continue communicating school reopening information with families in the days leading up to the start of school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Cornell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Michael R. Cornell
Superintendent of Schools