



Hamburg Central School District

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Administration Building

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May 28, 2020

Dear Hamburg Central School District Families,

I hope everyone remains safe and well. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the arrangements that are being made at each school for students to retrieve personal items and for them to return school-owned items. I'd like to also share information about high school graduation. It is also important for us to begin thinking about what our return to school will look like in the fall.

Students will be permitted to retrieve personal belongings from their school during the week of June 8th. The principal of each school will communicate during the week of June 1st regarding exactly how that retrieval will take place. The process will necessarily be carried out differently at the elementary level than at the secondary level, according to the needs of each. Most importantly, the priority of each plan will be the safety of our students and our staff.

Commencement for the Hamburg High School Class of 2020 is scheduled for August 1, 2020 at the Hamburg Fairgrounds. We are optimistic that we can conduct a proper in-person ceremony that meets the physical distancing guidelines that are most likely to be in place at that time. The number of attendees per graduate will be determined as we get closer to the event. If local public health officials prohibit us from moving forward with this plan, Mr. Gallagher has developed three contingency plans, which can be found on the high school website. Importantly, graduation will be on August 1 regardless of which plan we are required to enact.

I know that families and students have questions about transitioning academically to the next school year after this extended physical absence from school. For example, families are wondering if their child "will be able to advance to the next grade" in elementary school, or if she/he will need Academic Intervention Services (AIS) at the secondary level due to the COVID quarter. We know that this crisis has been economically, emotionally and physically stressful for everyone. Every family and child will process that stress differently, which will cause each child to react in her/his own unique way upon the return to school. So, knowing this, we have no plans to hold students back due to this public health crisis, and we will continue to schedule students for AIS according to our multiple measures approach. Our job as educators is to make sure that we are ready to meet the needs of every child in 2020-2021 no matter the impact that the extended absence from school has on your child.

Finally, many of you are wondering what school will look like in September. It's important to remember that September 8 is 103 days from today. Most of the factors that will determine the answer to that question are simply unknowable today. Rest assured that we will be patient, smart, and thoughtful about the safety of our students, staff and visitors as we learn and plan for the return of students to school, and that we will communicate with you about those plans as they come in to clearer focus.

I hope everyone enjoys this fantastic spring weather. Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Cornell
Superintendent of Schools