

# Walton Central School District



Michael A. MacDonald, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools

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**Corey Phraner**  
*District Clerk*

July 31, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and yours well. The weather has been beautiful and I hope you have been able to enjoy some of it during this unprecedented time of physical distancing. We have been engaged in an intensive planning process for the past several weeks to ensure we meet the regulatory expectation of NYS Education Department and NYS Department of Health to ensure the schools can open in September. This process could not have been completed without the many dedicated members of the school community who served as contributors to the Walton Central School District Reopening Plan. Many thanks for their expertise and dedication, not only to the outstanding educational experience of our students, faculty, and staff, but also for making the health and safety of our education community their top priority during the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Reopening Planning Committee members represented the diversity of our large organization, including members from each of our collective bargaining units, parents, Board of Education members, faculty, staff, community partners, and administration. Additionally, surveys were conducted with our students/parents and staff members with results and comments being thoroughly reviewed and considered throughout the planning process.

We have completed and submitted the required NYSED/NYSDOH reopening planning documentation. The link to the full document is available on the district website.

Education plan: the reopening requirements include the development of instructional programs within the scenarios of 1. Full open (while maintaining social distancing requirements), 2. Hybrid open (combination of in-school days and remote days) determined by the spacing capacity limitations of the social distancing regulation, and 3. Full remote open. The attached visual image provides details of the instructional programs that will be in place in September.

Key NYS guidance points to emphasize:

1. **Bus Transportation:** all students will be required to wear masks while riding the bus unless medically unable. Self-transport is encouraged. All bus students will be contacted in the upcoming weeks to confirm transportation needs. Due to cohorting of students to meet contact tracing per Department of Health requirements, transportation needs to be limited to the same pick-up and drop-off location daily (may be a different location in the morning and/or afternoon but the same daily).
2. **Daily student health screenings** including temperature checks will be required to be performed prior to school arrival. Details on the process will be communicated.

*Teaching, Learning, Growing and Caring ... Together*

3. Students are required to be in attendance each day regardless of the model of instructional delivery (in-person, remote, or hybrid). Daily attendance and absence reporting procedures remain in effect.
4. Parents of student(s) in need of a remote instructional program are required to contact the appropriate building principal as soon as possible.
5. Face Coverings/Social Distancing: the expectation for face covering (covering nose and mouth) by students (all individuals on district property) is that in the instances where appropriate social distance cannot be maintained a face covering must be worn covering nose and mouth. Students will have their face coverings removed for a major portion of the day when social/physical distancing is occurring. Teachers and administration will provide direction and training to students on the expectation. If there are individual concerns and/or questions regarding face coverings, please contact the appropriate building principal.
6. Due to the reorganization of the elementary school classroom structure under the physical distancing requirements, some previously communicated teacher assignments may change. Information regarding any change in class assignment will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

I am confident we will get through this together as a school community. After reading the reopening plan, please feel free to reach out to your child(ren)'s building principal or me with your concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael A. MacDonald, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools

MAM:scp