

CHEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 20, 2012

Dear Cheektowaga Central Families:

Throughout this school year, it has been our quest to have our students back on campus for the maximum amount of in-person instructional time as possible. We know that the best place for our students to be is in school, learning in person. Cheektowaga Central was one of the first districts to bring back elementary students four days per week. When the guidance was updated, we quickly transitioned to having all students K-6 attend five days per week and we added an additional day every other week for 7th and 8th grade students. We were able to make these moves by redistributing some of our resources.

When the New York State Department of Health issued the revised school guidance in mid-April, it seemed highly unlikely that the community transmission rates would drop enough to allow students in grades 7-12 to return in person every day using less than six feet of physical distancing. Since then, the total number of new positive cases per 100,000 persons within a 7-day period has fallen below 100 and the health department removed the six-foot physical distance requirement as well as the cohorting requirement.

However, they did not lift the mandate for six-foot physical distancing for meals, physical education, music or on the bus. Even if we overcame issues around space, transportation and meals, the students in grades 7-12 would have to undergo major schedule changes to keep class size at the three-foot physical distancing guideline. When we created the hybrid schedule and implemented full synchronous learning, it was a decision based on six-foot distancing and student needs which has impacted our flexibility for a return to full in-person classes. Disrupting students' schedules this late in the school year is not in the best interests of their instructional needs. **Therefore, we will continue with our current hybrid and remote learning models for grades 7-12 through the end of this school year.**

We all miss having our students in our buildings full time. Administrators met for hours trying to come up with a solution. Our teachers were supportive. Even though we cannot bring back everyone full time and meet the mandates, our goal continues to be to help every student finish this school year successfully. In middle school 7th and 8th grade students have gained some Wednesdays. In high school, we have shortened our exam schedule to give students three extra days of instruction.

We are planning for a full return of our student body for the 2021-2022 school year, including summer opportunities and five day per week in-person learning. Your support and understanding has been appreciated and we look forward to the successful conclusion of this school year and anticipate a rewarding and exciting start to the next school year.

Sincerely,



Mary A. Morris
Superintendent