

WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOLS

Raymond Castellani
Superintendent
194 Haight Road, P.O. Box 405
Amenia, New York 12501

Telephone 845-373-4100
Fax 845-373-4102

August 6, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Webutuck Central School District will welcome our students back on Tuesday, September 7, which is the first day of school for the 2021-22 school year. I am pleased to confirm with you that we will be moving forward with a regular 5 day per week in-person schedule for all of our students (K-12). We believe that this is vital and necessary to the academic, social, and emotional well-being of our students.

As noted in the local media, the New York State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker stated yesterday "With the end of the state disaster emergency on June 25, 2021, school districts are re-established as the controlling entity for schools. Schools and school districts should develop plans to open in-person in the fall as safely as possible, and I recommend following guidance from the CDC and local health departments." Prior to this notification, we were anticipating school reopening guidance from the New York State Department of Health. These CDC guidelines include:

- Universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms.
- Layer multiple other prevention strategies including poly-carbonate dividers on each student desk
- Temperature checks, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and being tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and should see their healthcare provider for testing and care.

The Webutuck District has and will continue to work in collaboration with the medical professionals at the Dutchess County Department of Health regarding the impact of COVID within the WCSD Community.

We will strive to provide a safe and healthy school environment for all of our students and staff. It is our objective to provide updates and information as it becomes available regarding any safety related protocols in the coming weeks. Please be advised that these updates are designed to provide information that is necessary in response to the current rise in COVID positivity rates within the WCSD Community.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to seeing our students, in-person, on September 7 to begin the new school year.

Respectfully,
Raymond Castellani
Superintendent of Schools