COMMUNITY UPDATE
March 8, 2022
Presented by:
Dr. Darren Brown-Hall
Superintendent of Schools
MASK MANDATE
Governor Kathy Hochul lifted the mandatory mask mandate for schools on March 2nd.

- Masking is now optional
  - Individuals may wear a mask if they choose to do so
  - In accordance with New York State guidance, if an individual tests positive for COVID-19 and returns to school under the reduced isolation guidelines, they must wear a mask on return to school on Days 6 – 10.
NYSDOH GUIDANCE

- For exposure and notification:
  - Any individual who was in the same school setting (i.e. bus, classroom) as a COVID-19 positive individual is considered exposed and will be notified.
  - Regardless of vaccination status, NYSDOH school guidance states individuals who were exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual are not automatically excluded from school and should wear a mask and test as recommended.
  - Notification of exposure will now be communicated through WITS and sent directly to parents/guardians and staff members who are impacted.
NYSDOH GUIDANCE

- The District is no longer offering a Test to Stay program
  - If an individual is exposed to a positive COVID-19 individual, a COVID-19 at-home test kit will be provided to families and/or staff members upon request through WITS
  - Each test kit contains two (2) COVID-19 at home tests
AT-HOME TEST KIT DISTRIBUTION
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- The District distributed more than 12,000 at-home test kits prior to the Mid-Winter Recess

- Finalizing another distribution of test kits

- A WITS survey will be available from March 14th - March 18th to request test kits be sent home in backpacks
VOLUNTEERING
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● Due to low rate of transmission in our region, the District is no longer restricting non-essential visitors to buildings

● However, please refrain from volunteering or participating in events if you:
  ○ Are experiencing signs and/or symptoms of COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status)
  ○ Have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days
  ○ Have a known exposure to a positive case, regardless of vaccination status, within the past 14 days
Volunteering

When do school visits occur?

- Invited by the principal or teacher for a specific purpose like volunteering in a classroom for an event, being a guest reader, or providing support as a cafeteria monitor.
- An evening or school day celebration such as an art show or a PTA sponsored event.
BOE ELECTIONS
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- Board candidate information and applications are available on the District’s website

- Those interested in being a Board candidate should contact the District Clerk, Lynn Carey
  - E-mail: lcarey@williamsvillek12.org
  - Office: 716-626-8092
    - Deadline to apply as a nominee is April 18th

- Budget vote and school board elections are May 17th
2022–2023 Budget Information

The annual budget vote and Board of Education elections will take place on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. The Special Board Meeting and Budget Hearing will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Information presented regarding the 2022–2023 budget and the BOE elections will be updated on this page when it becomes available. Be sure to also review BoardDocs to view any agenda items and presentations.

Voter Eligibility:
1. A United States Citizen
2. At least 18 years of age or older
3. A resident of the school district for a period of 30 days prior to the vote (Qualified voters must be all three.)

Budget Presentations:
- February 8, 2022 - Program Continuation Report
- January 11, 2022 - Program Continuation Report
COMMUNITY FORUM

● The District is hosting a Community Forum on Tuesday, March 22nd following the Special Board Meeting and Budget Work Session

● Individuals can attend the Community Forum in-person

● Information was WITSmained to families and staff and is available on the District website
SABRES PORTRAITS

- Heim Middle School 6th graders created portraits of their favorite players and staff and featured by the Sabres on Kids Day!
- All portraits are linked on the District’s website
VIRTUAL ART SHOW

- The District launched its Virtual Art Show
- More than 300 student pieces are included in the digital exhibit
- Information on how to view the Virtual Art show was shared with families through WITS and is available on the District website
WILLIAMSVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

● Wall of Fame nominations are being accepted
  ○ Nominations are due by April 15th
  ○ Nomination applications are available on the District website and at www.wedf.org

● Offering a $500 scholarship to 1 senior at each high school
  ○ Applications and information are available on the District website and at www.wedf.org
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