



September 4, 2020

Dear Williamsville Central School District Families,

As we approach the start of the school year, I want to update you on a few things before classes begin.

All students in our hybrid instructional model will begin class on September 8, 2020. Students in grades K-4 who are participating in the fully remote online learning model will also begin classes on time on September 8, 2020. **However, due to the number of middle school and high school students who are in the fully remote online learning model, students in grades 5-12 will have a delayed start to the year.** Delaying the start of our fully remote online learning model is currently the best path forward.

During the planning process, we had 2,361 students elect to participate in the fully remote online learning model. Of those students, 1,375 are at the middle and high school levels, which created more than 80 virtual teacher vacancies in the District. We are working diligently to fill those positions to begin instruction in the fully remote online learning model for students in grades 5-12. Simultaneously, the District has had 90 staff members take a leave of absence due to COVID-19 and 111 staff members resign.

In addition, at this time, students in the hybrid or fully remote online learning model **will not be allowed** to transfer instructional models **until October 1, 2020**. After October 1, 2020, the District will only allow students to transfer one time to a different instructional model.

You can watch my video message to families by following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyhzZDk-MiI&feature=youtu.be>

I know the journey from the closure of schools in March to the reopening of schools in September has been far from easy. While our schools and classrooms may look different with the health and safety precautions we have put into place, whether your child is receiving instruction in-person or virtually, our goal remains the same: To provide them with an exceptional public education. I have full confidence that our administrators and teachers are up for the task. I know there will be trying days ahead, but no one is on this journey alone.

For the first few weeks of the year, the District will be sending automated messages through WITSMail and our eAlert text system to remind parents to take their child's temperature and complete the Daily COVID-19 Health Questionnaire before leaving for school. Please do not block or unsubscribe from the District's messages, as you could miss critical communications we send out. We know and understand that parents might forget to complete these tasks before sending their child to school, and sending these automated messages in the morning is one of the proactive measures we are taking to provide reminders to families.

I also wanted to inform you that whether your child is in the hybrid or fully remote online learning model, the District will be providing meals, at no cost, to all students through December 31, 2020. This is a change from the communication that was sent out by our Child Nutrition Department on September 2, 2020. Please know that free and reduced lunch applications should be submitted as normal.



Please remember face coverings and social distancing are required on school grounds at all times. While we will have scheduled mask breaks throughout the day, wearing a properly fitted face covering is considered the most proactive way to slow the spread of COVID-19. We also have face coverings available for students, should their mask become soiled at any point in the day. For additional health and safety information, please be sure to visit our “Reopening Information” and “COVID-19 Education” pages on our website at www.williamsvillek12.org.

This week, each of our schools shared videos on social media featuring the health and safety precautions in place. You can watch these videos on our website by clicking here: [Building Health and Safety Videos](#). Please use these as a reference for yourself and your child to have a better understanding of how each school will operate as we return to school.

I look forward to seeing our students’ smiles in our classrooms again, both in-person and virtually, and can’t wait to see their growth and progress throughout the school year.

We’ll see you next week!

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott G. Martzloff
Superintendent of Schools