

PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 28, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to update you on the status of our school programs. We are carefully monitoring the staffing situation. Barring any significant changes, we are on track to transition all of our programs back to the hybrid format this Monday, February 1st. I would like to remind everyone that for us to remain in a successful hybrid model we must have all parents, students and staff following the COVID guidelines for face coverings, social distancing and hand hygiene. Additionally, it is very important to complete the health screener for every student on days they are present for in person learning. In the event you wish to transition your child to remote or hybrid learning, please contact the building principal by the end of this week.

As you may know, both NY State and the counties in the Mid-Hudson region have approved basketball to start effective February 1st. If you have a student who wishes to play basketball at the varsity, junior varsity or modified level, they must be signed up in FamilyID. If they have not already done so, please contact the Athletic Office as soon as possible at (518) 398-7181 ext. 1366.

The basketball games will be under the strict regulations of NY State and Dutchess County Behavioral and Community Health. Following their regulations, there will be no fans permitted at the games and only the minimal staff necessary to conduct the contest. We have a camera set up in the gymnasium. There is a company called NFHS who has a contract with Section IX. There is a subscription cost to have the games livestreamed to your home. The cost for a one-month subscription to NFHS Network to watch basketball live streamed from our gymnasium is \$10.99 for one month. The cost of a one-year subscription is \$69.99 per year. Parents and families can subscribe and select the plan they are interested in by using the following link www.nfhsnetwork.com/subscribe/retail. A valid email address is required to create an account. The Section IX governing body has determined that the season for basketball will be limited to February 1st to February 27th. After that, the fall sports season will take place.

Finally, I have been asked about whether the school will be conducting COVID testing. At this time, it does not appear that we will be required to do so. However, we have received a significant supply of the rapid tests from NY State. These tests involve a very shallow nasal swab with results in 15 to 20 minutes. We are considering offering the tests to students and staff on a voluntary basis. Students will not be excluded from attending in-person classes if they do not have parental consent. In addition, there is no cost to the family or to the school district for these tests. More information on this to follow.

Thank you again for all of your support during this difficult time.

Be well and stay safe.

Dr. Martin D. Handler
Superintendent