

PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

First, let me thank you for your support in the recent school election. The approved budget will allow us to continue our programs that the students have found valuable. In addition, there are funds to address any “learning loss” experienced by students during this difficult time. Finally, the approved capital project will mean that critical facilities repairs and improvements will take place. We anticipate the majority of the work for this project will take place in the summer and fall of 2022.

As I am sure you are aware, the Center for Disease Control has passed relaxed guidance regarding mask wearing and social distancing. As of today, New York has officially adopted this guidance. However, there is a specific exception made for schools in both the CDC and NY State guidance. Schools will still be required to wear masks except for eating and short mask breaks. The NY State Athletic Association has also reaffirmed that all athletes must wear masks and Section IX continues to require a mask for all spectators.

The new guidance will be helpful with the capacity limits for our end of year events like graduation. We anticipate being able to offer more tickets than originally planned to graduates and their families, although it is unclear at this time what mask requirements will be for those events. More information regarding graduation will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

The new guidance for not wearing a mask in other places requires that people be fully vaccinated. We have offered several clinics here in Pine Plains both at the local pharmacies and at the school. Our upcoming event will be a Pfizer clinic, this Sunday, May 23rd from 10 am until 1pm. The Pfizer vaccine is the only vaccine approved for individuals 12 years of age and older. Second doses will be administered on June 13th. Currently, there are approximately 90 appointments still available. The registration link for an appointment is posted on the front page of the school district website www.ppcsd.org

A final note, some parents expressed concern regarding a “hold-in-place” at CSELIC that delayed dismissal last Friday. A “hold-in-place” is used in all of our schools when there is an incident, usually a medical situation that requires the school hallways be clear for responding medical personnel. There is typically no danger to any of the students in the building.

Once again, thank you for your support in the school election.

As always, be safe and stay well.

Dr. Martin D. Handler
Superintendent