

PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2829 CHURCH STREET • PINE PLAINS, NEW YORK 12567-5504

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WWW.PPCSD.ORG

August 26, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to update you on the events affecting our school opening just less than two weeks away.

Last week the Board of Education accepted our reopening plan. Details can be found in the *Reopening Handbook for Students and Families*, which is posted on our website www.ppcsd.org under the COVID-19 tab.

NY State is expected to issue a statewide mask mandate for schools. This would be consistent with our reopening plan. There may be a requirement for all unvaccinated staff to be tested for COVID weekly. Those details are yet to be announced.

There will be a webinar next Thursday, September 2nd at 7:30pm. The link to the webinar will be sent out next week. Each of the administrative staff will highlight important information for their school or department. We will take emailed questions. We will answer questions of a general nature as time permits. All other questions will be answered by email.

I have received a number of questions about remote learning. The district will not be offering remote learning this school year. The only possibility for this to change would be a widespread outbreak of the virus that forces one of our schools or the entire district to go remote.

We will provide virtual learning to students if there is a medical situation in the household, documented by a physician that would make it medically hazardous for a student to attend school in person. Please make any requests of this nature directly to the student's principal. Elementary students approved for virtual learning will receive a program through the Dutchess BOCES. Instruction will be provided by BOCES teachers with synchronous instruction in English Language Arts and mathematics and asynchronous in all other subjects. Educere, a company that we have used in the past to provide virtual instruction, will provide the secondary school program. While the curriculum being taught in these programs conforms to the NY State Learning Standards, the programs will utilize instructional material different from that being taught at Pine Plains. Because of the commitments that the district will have to make, students will have to commit to a full school year for the virtual program.

Participation in our fall interscholastic athletic program is low. While practices for varsity and junior varsity sports have already begun, there is still time for interested students to sign up to participate. Participation in our modified sports programs for grades 7, 8 and 9 is especially low. Those practices do not start until school reopens. We would welcome additional students in these programs. If you have a student interested for the fall, please call the Athletic Office at 518-398-7181, ext. 1366.

One final note, the district has several Food Service Worker positions available. If you are interested, please contact Julia Tomaine at 518-398-7181 ext. 1408 or j.tomaine@ppcsd.org

I will continue to update you on any changes to our plans for reopening.

Be well and stay safe,

Dr. Martin D. Handler
Superintendent