

# PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 2, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to update you on preparations for the reopening of school.

First, there will be a webinar at 7:30 pm today, Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Each of the administrators will be in attendance to highlight the important information for parents regarding next week's opening. Please click [here](#) for the link to tonight's webinar. The link can also be found on the district's website. Parents can email questions to [j.tomaine@ppcsd.org](mailto:j.tomaine@ppcsd.org). Questions of a general nature will be answered as time permits. Remaining questions will be answered through email.

Last Friday, we received an additional mandate from the NY State Department of Health. The new regulation is very specific. All staff and students will wear masks while indoors unless they are eating or drinking. Our original reopening plan allowed for "mask breaks" for students. This is no longer permitted with this regulation. Please click [here](#) for the link to the regulation. It is posted on our website as well.

We have always allowed students to have water at their desks. It is my expectation that students will use the opportunity to drink water and remove their masks for that purpose. There will be bottled water available to students at each of the schools for those who do not have their own water bottles.

Finally, as we approach the beginning of the fall sports season I have to renew my appeal to parents and their students especially in grades 7, 8 and 9 to consider participating in one of our modified sports programs. The number in those sports remain low and one or more of those programs may not be able to operate if sign-ups do not improve. For more information, please contact the athletic office at (518) 398-7181 ext.1366.

I truly appreciate all of the patience and understanding shown by our parents. Many of the rules that have been given to us have been inconvenient, to say the least. I do believe that the focus has been to try to get this latest outbreak under control and avoid the shutdown that we experienced last year.

I look forward to seeing our students next week.

Be well and stay safe.

Dr. Martin D. Handler  
Superintendent