

# Greene Central School

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Dear GCS Community,

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and state of emergency declared by Governor Andrew Cuomo, Greene Central School has been closed since March 16, 2020. We have all heard in the media that education as we know it today will be changed tremendously in numerous unprecedented ways. We all know how many of our students miss our traditional school setting, and the daily interaction with their peers and teachers. I think we all agree that remote learning can't replace those experiences. However, our schools may be forced to think about different ways to educate our students.

We did the best we could in a difficult time and a short window to plan. I would describe our end of the year system as "Emergency Response Instruction." However, we are now committed to moving forward and making sure our students' educations are not compromised by this pandemic. We have been working hard behind the scenes to plan for September 2020, and address the reopening of schools, with an understanding that the health, safety, and wellness of students, families, educators, and staff must be a priority.

The 2020-2021 instructional year is going to pose many challenges and there will be many decisions that will need to be made. We will need to look at things much differently, such as instructional delivery, facility organization, hygiene, scheduling, monitoring, transportation, and financial impacts, just to name a few. It is imperative that we develop a plan to address these areas and more. For this reason, the district has created a reopening task force to study and coordinate this planning process. This team consists of board members, administration, district staff, community members, local business leaders, health officials, technology experts, and fiscal advisors. It is our goal that the collaborative effort of this task force will ensure a safe return to school for everyone. We have yet to receive any guidance from NYS on the reopening of schools. When we receive that guidance we will move quickly to get plans in place and communicate them to the GCS community.

In the meantime, we want you to begin considering the following possibilities:

- All students may not be in school every day, and possibly, may only be allowed to report to school on a rotational basis. I know that this will present child care issues for some, so we need you to begin thinking about options for your children if one of these scenarios becomes the case.
- The number of students allowed on buses will be drastically reduced. We are trying to be creative in how we structure bus runs. If you feel that you will be able to, or are planning to transport your child to school, please call the school main office to let us know. This will help in our planning.

- We can no longer accept bus notes for different drop off locations. Each parent needs to designate a single pick up/drop off location for the year. Because of regulations, we are required to minimize the mixing of student populations. Therefore, any changes in where you need your child to go each day after school will need to be organized on your end from that drop-off point. I know that this is a very big change for us, so please plan accordingly.
- Parents must keep children home if they are not feeling well or if they have a fever. If they have a fever, they cannot get on our buses or come to the school building as this would be putting every other student and staff member at risk. Any student who has a fever at any point during the school day will need to be picked up immediately from school.
- Students may need to wear masks in school when social distancing is not possible. Please begin having conversations with your children about the need to wear masks, the requirements to stay 6 feet apart from others, and refraining from touching/being right next to others. The district will issue masks to students at the start of the school year.

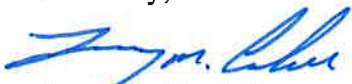
Students and parents must know that throughout the 20-21 school year, our school structure may change at any moment based on the regulation and requirements issued to schools. Students need to realize that this is the new normal for school, and they must participate accordingly. This means students need to attend school when assigned to be present, log on to online sessions, and complete work if they intend on passing classes and being promoted in the next school year.

The success of each student is going to require a collaborative effort on your part and the part of all school employees. Please know that the staff and I are dedicated to each student's success and recognize that, by participating in all required work, we will do whatever it takes to support them. Nothing about this situation is going to be easy for anyone, but we need to encourage each other's efforts to make the best of it. I will continue to update you with more information as our plans become solidified.

I know there is a great deal of difficult information to digest in this letter, but I want to be transparent with you and make you aware of all of the challenges schools are facing. Re-opening and having students back in school is my greatest desire and it will take monumental efforts on all of our parts to make it happen.

Regardless of my desire to have everything back to "normal," at this time it is not realistic, and we must follow the orders we receive from NYS. We will continue to update you regularly as we receive guidance and move forward with the reopening of our schools. Thank you for your understanding and, as always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Calice  
Superintendent of Schools