

# Greene Central School

Timothy M. Calice, Superintendent of Schools



40 SOUTH CANAL STREET  
GREENE, NEW YORK 13778

Telephone (607) 656-4161

FAX (607) 656-9362

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Dear GCS Families and District Staff,

The priority for the Greene Central School District is to provide safe and in-person instruction and learning 5 days a week to our most valued customers - our students. We strive to provide our students and staff a healthy and humane school environment so our students and staff flourish. We know our children need to be in school to maximize their learning potential, thus, we will be ready to open our doors fully to our faculty, staff, and students in September.

Our District has received and reviewed the results and feedback from the ThoughtExchange sent out on August 6th. The plan we have created is responsive to our stakeholders, but also keeps the students at the forefront of Greene CSD decision making. The district will continue to follow the guidance provided by the CDC, DOH, and NYSED. We will begin the 2021-2022 school year by implementing the following protocols to remain in-person, 5 days a week:

- **Remote Learning will NOT be an option** for students unless there is a medically documented condition which would prevent a return to full-time in-person instruction. Remote learning will require, in addition to medical documentation and district approval, a one-year commitment to that mode of instruction. Instruction will be provided by a third-party organization. Fully remote students **will NOT** have the opportunity for extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics.
- Per the CDC's order, students and District staff riding our buses will be **REQUIRED** to wear a mask while being transported. Our bus runs will return to normal capacity.
- Students and staff will be **REQUIRED** to wear a mask upon entering our buildings and reporting to their classrooms.
- Students and staff will be **REQUIRED** to wear a mask while traveling in the hallways between classes and/or to different locations within the buildings.
- Students, staff, visitors, or community members will **NOT BE REQUIRED** to wear a mask while outdoors.

- Students and staff are *\*highly recommended\** (see contact tracing information below) to wear masks while in classrooms during instruction and learning, but it will be optional at this time, regardless of vaccination status when sitting at desks socially distanced. When students are not at their desks (or not socially distanced while sitting at desks), they will be **REQUIRED** to wear masks (movement equals masks).
- While we will try to maintain 3-6 feet of social distance, some classrooms and learning activities will return to group work with close collaboration among students and our teachers. At these times masks will be **REQUIRED** when social distancing can't be maintained (movement equals masks).
- The district will provide **free breakfast and lunch for all students** again for the 2021-2022 school year. Special plans will be developed at each building to try and maximize social distancing during breakfast and lunch times.
- If anyone prefers to always wear a mask while on campus, they will have the ability to do so with the respect of all students and staff members.
- The district will continue its high levels of ventilation, sanitation, and cleaning each day.
- We ask that each student and District staff member continue the practice of good hygiene by washing hands frequently and maintaining the proper social distance from one another, whenever possible.
- We ask that your child(ren) and our District staff members stay home when ill and contact the appropriate school nurse.
- It is **NOT REQUIRED** for families and District employees to fill out the daily health screening form this year.
- In the absence of any future school mandates regarding interscholastic sport competitions from NYSPHSAA, masks are *\*highly recommended\** but **NOT REQUIRED** during practices and competitions. Players and coaches have the right to wear a mask if desired.
- Our extracurricular activities and events at school will take place throughout the year and the wearing of masks is *\*highly recommended\** by students and advisors. Masks will be required if social distancing can't be maintained. Any visitors to our campus for inside school events are **REQUIRED** to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status.
- Visitors: Schools serve an important function as centers for their communities, and we will do our best to accommodate requests for both school groups and outside organizations the use of school facilities in a safe manner. Visitors will be expected to comply with COVID-19 protocols in place at the time of their visit.

Please be advised of the following CDC and DOH regulations regarding "close contacts" and "quarantining":

- *A close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected individual for a cumulative total of 10 minutes. Close contacts, along with the infected individual, will need to quarantine if identified in contact tracing efforts. In the classroom setting, the close contact definition **EXCLUDES students who were within 6 feet of an infected individual if BOTH the infected individual and exposed student(s) were properly wearing a mask. Proper mask wearing means that it covers both the nose and mouth.***
- *Fully vaccinated students and teachers ARE NOT required to quarantine; however, they should be tested 3-5 days after exposure. even if asymptomatic and wear a mask until their test result is negative.*
- *Quarantine period is 10 days.*

The district will continue to monitor the daily health and wellness of our students and staff, along with the localized spread rate of COVID-19 and the Delta variant in Chenango County and our surrounding towns and villages. Please be advised that the above protocols and procedures could change on short notice, if the district determines it is necessary for the health and protection of our students and staff. Decisions will be based upon our current health status within our buildings and may be based upon the 7-day rolling average of transmission in our area. **Any section of the above-mentioned plan may be amended through federal, state, or local order or directive.**

The goal will always be the safety of our students and staff while maintaining our in-person, 5 days a week teaching and learning model. Our stakeholder feedback was in unanimous agreement on maintaining in-person instruction, extracurricular activities, and to provide as traditional of a school year as possible for our students. The district will use this as the foundation of our decision making to ensure our students stay in school.

I am confident we can accomplish this with everyone's help! It is our partnership with our great school community that makes GCS rise above the rest!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your child's principal with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Calice

Superintendent of Schools