



PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 17, 2021

Dear Hornet Parents, Faculty & Staff:

I hope that this correspondence finds you well, and sharing in the collective optimism that the vaccine deployment and the return of more pleasant weather will continue to see COVID conditions improve. While an outright return to 'normal' is surely still a long-range concept, district personnel continue to consider and plan for a transition from the current hybrid mode of instruction to an in-person mode of delivery allowing for increased direct student-teacher interaction.

In keeping, the district's Reopening Planning Committee has reviewed various options, and framed some basic reopening recommendations for the Board of Education. In turn, the Board has discussed this matter, and contemplates acting on amendments to the reopening plan at its March 25, 2021 meeting. Nothing outlined herein is yet official, but this update is being provided to keep the community abreast of planning and possible upcoming changes in instructional mode of delivery.

Tentatively:

- The Board of Education will consider and act upon a reopening resolution at the March 25, 2021 meeting.
- This resolution would involve a full return to in-person instruction (ie. five days per week) on April 12, 2021 (ie. upon return from the April recess).
- The parent remote option would still be in-place, except for students who are experiencing academic distress (in-keeping with an earlier amendment to the reopening plan).
- If/As Teachers' schedules change from hybrid to in-person delivery, so too will the nature of the remote instruction which they are able to support. Though nothing has yet been officially determined, it is likely that students opting to remain in the fully-remote mode will be served through livestreamed instruction from the classroom for portions of the day/class, rather than through the provision of a daily instructional routine.
- With most students returning to fully in-person instruction, food service will revert to a more typical system of providing meals, but pick-up meal packs for those students who remain in the fully-remote mode will continue to be made available.
- Transportation for qualifying students will also continue, but as we convert from the

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hybrid mode to the fully in-person mode, there will presumably be more students riding our buses.

The process of preparing student spaces to accommodate increased populations has begun. As has been outlined in the reopening plan since its inception in August, 2020, maintaining 6-foot social distancing at all times in the instruction setting is not realistic. Nonetheless, student spaces will be arranged so as to maximize spacing, and density-control measures (such as limitations on simultaneous restroom use) will persist, as will the hygiene practices which have proven most effective: masking and hand-washing.

This anticipated return to fully in-person instruction will surely be met with mixed reaction... with some delighted that this long-awaited return may be near, while others' anxiety about the virus may be heightened by this contemplated move towards the pre-pandemic style of schooling. Given the broad opening of other functions in society (retail, dining, recreation, travel, etc.), there appears to be similarly-broad support for trying to fully reopen schools. Again, the Board of Education has already expressed general support for such a return, and will consider specific action about such at the March 25th meeting. And, as has also been noted, April 12 appears to be the favored target date for this possible return.

The resumption of co-curricular activities will continue to be made on a case-specific basis, but in light of the partial-resumption of certain events (such as interscholastic sports), increases in the other co-curricular activities appears likely.

Faculty and staff will spend the upcoming Superintendent's Day (Friday, March 19th) furthering these tentative reopening plans, and a detailed announcement will be made following any Board action taken on March 25th. Our Principals are familiar with these provisional details, and would welcome inquiries about such.

Best,

Jay Lebrun
Superintendent of Schools

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