



Sweet Home Central School District of Amherst and Tonawanda

Office of the Superintendent
1901 Sweet Home Road • Amherst, New York 14228
(716) 250-1402

*Michael V. Ginestre
Superintendent of Schools*

September 3, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Sweet Home. We are so excited to have our students back for full, in-person instruction, five days a week starting on September 8. There is nothing more critical to student success than the relationship they have with the faculty and staff at Sweet Home. By being whole again, we are more than confident in addressing the academic, social, and emotional needs of every student at Sweet Home.

Of course, we could not have everyone back for in-person instruction without the measures necessary to keep our school community safe. As you know, all persons entering a Sweet Home building must be masked properly and maintain distancing when possible. Further details of our safety plan are located on our Website, www.sweethomeschools.org.

Also last evening, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) issued a mandate that all personnel in a school, including faculty, staff, contractors, and substitutes, must show proof of vaccination or be subject to weekly testing. That test must be negative in order for that individual to be present at a Sweet Home facility. We have already begun collecting vaccination status information from our personnel and will be working closely with local health agencies to implement testing for individuals who are not fully vaccinated.

We have also partnered with the Erie County Department of Health to implement proximal and surveillance testing for students. With parental consent, students can participate in one or both programs. Proximal testing will test an entire classroom for COVID-19 if there is one positive case in the room. Surveillance testing is also done with parental consent and will test 10 percent of the student population weekly on a randomized basis. Both programs are designed to eliminate outbreaks. Please be on the lookout for specific communications on how you can register your child to participate in these critical programs.

Again, we thank our entire school community for working with us to get all of our students back for in-person instruction. Wednesday morning can't come soon enough and we wish you nothing but the best as we embark on a new school year. Best wishes to you and your family!

Sincerely,

Michael V. Ginestre -- Superintendent of Schools