



Sweet Home Central School District of Amherst and Tonawanda

Office of the Superintendent
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*Michael V. Ginestre
Superintendent of Schools*

August 20, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we have learned over the past 18 months, situations change rapidly in terms of COVID-19. We thank all of you in advance for your patience as we develop the best opening plans possible with the safety of our students, faculty and staff as our top priority. The work of the School District Task Force in June was clear and I think we all agree that our students must be in school, five days a week, for in-person instruction. This is best for our students' educational, social, emotional, and overall well being. Our work this summer has been geared towards that goal and we are excited to say that all of our students will be back to school five days a week starting on the first day, September 8.

What is still in question are the safety protocols that will be recommended/mandated by the Erie County Department of Health and the New York State Department of Health. We know there will be protocols for masks, social distancing, cleaning, testing, screening, eating, transportation, etc. What we are still awaiting word on are the specifics of these protocols. With that said, we know many of you are anticipating our plans and we are happy to discuss what we know so far. Please join me on **Thursday, August 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** for an **online town hall** where we will present the very latest information on safety protocols for the upcoming school year. The Zoom link for that town hall will be posted on our Website in the coming days.

Sometime shortly after that meeting, we are hoping to send our school community a letter outlining the protocols so you and your family are prepared for the upcoming school year. We are excited to have our students back and we will continue to use this summer to prepare for their safe arrival.

Again, we thank you for your patience as we wait for updated government safety guidelines. We know these are trying times with much uncertainty on where COVID is taking us. However, we will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our students to provide them the best and safest experience possible this school year.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Ginestre -- Superintendent of Schools