



# 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*

August 6, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First, let me take a moment to introduce myself as the new superintendent of the Sweet Home Central School District. I started on August 2 and could not be more excited about serving the students and families of our great district. I look forward to meeting all of you and working together to move us forward and provide great opportunities for each and every student at Sweet Home.

While I hope all of you are enjoying the summer, I have learned quickly this week that preparations for the 2021-2022 school year are in full swing. The new school year is rapidly approaching and we are working hard to make all the arrangements to start the school year on the right path. The team is highly motivated to bring all of our students back to school for five-day-a-week, in-person instruction, while keeping the health and safety of our students as our main priority.

As you may have noticed, districts have been notified by the New York State Department of Health and the governor's office that decisions about the health and well being of our students in regards to the pandemic will be made at the local level. This is a bit surprising as we have waited for word from the state all summer on school opening guidance. I have learned through communication with the administrative team at Sweet Home that the district has partnered throughout the pandemic with the New York State Department of Health, the Erie County Department of Health, and local health professionals to ensure that the safety, health, and well being of our students is of the utmost priority. This practice will continue at Sweet Home as we approach the start of the school year.

Over the next week or two, we will be working with the Erie County Department of Health to review their recommendations for the opening of the 2021-2022 school year. These recommendations will likely be in concert with recent recommendations from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) in regards to measures to keep our students safe while bringing all of our students back for five-day-a-week in-person instruction.

As the next week or two unfolds, we will keep our community informed as our plan develops. We will work in partnership with the Board of Education, the administrative team at Sweet Home, and all of our constituency groups to create the very best opening plan that serves the educational, social and emotional needs of every student in our district while prioritizing safety.

In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying your summer and spending time with your family and friends. As always, please contact my office if you have any questions or concerns. Please take care.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Ginestre -- Superintendent of Schools