



# WHITNEY POINT

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Dr. Patricia A. Follette**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Jo-Ann Sexton**  
Assistant Superintendent

**Zachary M. Woodard**  
School Business Executive

September 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The leaves are beginning to turn color, and the morning temperatures are cooler. These are sure signs that fall is upon us, and school will be starting soon. Amid the many changes due to COVID-19 pandemic, we are all excited to begin school and work with students, whether in-person or remotely.

**PLEASE NOTE, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 IS THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS.**

Grades PreK-5 will attend school from 8:20-3:10 (Drop off no earlier than 8:20 and pick up starts at 2:50). Grades 6-12 will attend school from 7:20-2:10 (Drop off no earlier than 7:15 and pick up starts at 2:05). All drop off and pickup points will stay the same for each school. Students cannot be dropped off early, as we are not able to provide a common area with social distancing.

If you have been following recent updates or attended the Community Forums, you will know we have been diligently working to create a safe and effective learning environment for students. Even so, school will have a different look and feel to it this year. Every effort will be made to support students in this transition.

All students have the option of choosing fully remote learning, and many families have committed to this learning model for the first semester (end of January). If you would like to move to fully remote learning, please sign up on the district website or call the school office. At this time, our plan is to have students in grades PreK- 5 and self-contained special education classes attend five days a week. Students in grades 6-12 will follow a hybrid A/B Cohort schedule with Cohort A attending school on Monday/Tuesday and Cohort B attending on Thursday/Friday, with all 6-12 students remote on Wednesdays.

If your child is attending school in-person, we will need your help to ensure the health, wellness, and safety of all students and staff. This can only be done by working together and everyone following all safety protocols and practices. We have been working closely with the Broome County Department of Health to meet the criteria developed by The NYS Education Department and Department of Health. We continue to get daily updates from the NYS and Broome County Health Department and will keep you posted of any changes in our protocols.

- **SCREENING-** Parents will be required to complete a DAILY screening of their child/ren to check for COVID-19 symptoms BEFORE their child/ren enter the bus or school. ON THE FIRST DAY OF EACH WEEK, parents will be asked to use the GoCanvas screening tool to confirm that they will complete this daily screening. GoCanvas can be accessed as an APP or from a link on the district website. Parents will receive an email to gain access to the GoCanvas screening tool. (Please be sure we have a current email to contact you). Paper copies will be available for families that cannot access the form online. Temperature checks will also be done as students enter the building each day, we will not be checking temperatures as students enter the bus.

***District Vision***

***To be a community of excellence achieved through a commitment to high performance, morale and involvement.***

- **CLOTH FACE COVERINGS/MASK WEARING-** Appropriate cloth face coverings/masks must be worn on the bus at all times and throughout the school day unless directed by a staff member or when students are eating. Students should come to school wearing a well-fitted mask that covers both their nose and mouth. A mask will be provided, if needed. Designated age-appropriate mask breaks will be offered.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING-** Social distancing at 6 feet will be practiced whenever practicable.
- **IMMUNIZATIONS-** Per New York State Department of Health, there will not be any extension of time in the 14-day exclusion rule for immunizations. Students need to be up-to-date or be in process on all their immunizations to attend school, whether in person or remotely.
- **BUILDING VISITS-** Building visits will be limited for all visitors including parents. Please do not come to a school building without providing prior notice. All visitors will be screened and are expected to wear a mask. All appointments should be scheduled 24 hours in advance and will take place remotely whenever possible.
- **TRANSPORTATION-** Bus schedules are being finalized and will be sent out on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are transporting your child/ren, please be sure the transportation department knows. Hand sanitizer can now be used on a bus. *(Thank you to families who have been able to make arrangements to transport their child/ren.)*
- **STUDENT MEALS-** Grades PreK-5 will eat in the classroom. Grades 6-12 will be offered a grab-and-go breakfast to eat in their first-period class and have lunch socially distanced in the cafeteria. Breakfast will be provided to all students free of charge. Please be sure to fill out a free and reduced lunch form to qualify for free or reduced lunch.
- **ATTENDANCE-** Daily attendance/interaction will be required for all students whether they are participating in-person, hybrid or remote learning.
- **WHEN A STUDENT SHOWS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19-** Students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 with no other explanation for the symptoms should be sent to the school health office for an assessment by the school nurse. Students who are sent home should seek evaluation and provide a note from a healthcare provider, and work with the school to determine any other requirements for their return, per Department of Health guidelines. *(This is new and you will receive more information or visit our website for more information.)*
- **CONTINGENCY PLANS-** Due to possible quarantines and other unexpected closures or early releases, parents should have a contingency plan for their children.
- **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-** Please see our website for answers to frequently asked questions. We will continue to address any new questions submitted.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of our school district. Together we can make our reopening plan a success for all students. Whitney Point is a strong and resilient community!

Wishing you all a healthy and successful school year.

Sincerely,

*Patricia A. Follette*

Dr. Patricia A. Follette  
Superintendent