

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

**Victoria McLaren**  
Superintendent of Schools

(845) 657-6383

Fax (845) 657-8742

August 14, 2020

Dear Onteora Families,

Our goal is to welcome our students back into our buildings as soon as possible and with all of the appropriate safety protocols in place. We have been diligently preparing for that and have taken the following steps in order to do so:

- We have purchased numerous PPE items in order to ensure that our students and staff have appropriate protections.
- We have planned and reviewed cleaning and disinfection protocols for our classrooms, buildings and vehicles.
- We have purchased a screening program to be used at home by families and staff prior to traveling to school.
- We have ordered temperature screening units to be placed at each entrance to ensure that individuals are fever free before they enter our buildings.
- We have been meeting with the County Executive and his staff in order to coordinate our planning for testing and contact tracing.

We want to ensure the entire community that our processes and protocols are fluid and safe for our students and staff before fully re-opening. We realize that we will not be able to test and refine the use of these various items and procedures in time to implement our plan beginning on September 9th as we had originally planned. As such, we will be delaying the implementation of our in-person learning model until October 1st for students. During the month of September, we will implement the remote learning model from our buildings for all students, while also testing our safety protocols to ensure that they are working properly. We need to keep in mind that once we do welcome our students back, our families must be prepared for intermittent short-term closures based on isolation and quarantine requirements related to positive cases of COVID within our school community.

We will continue to listen to the feedback of our students, parents, faculty, staff, and administration. We will host three additional community forums next week to discuss our reopening plans. They will be held on the following dates:

August 17th at 10:00 - 11:00 am

August 19th at 2:00 - 3:00 pm

August 20th at 6:00 - 7:00 pm

We understand that this change in plans may create great hardship for many of our families. We ask for your flexibility, patience and understanding. We are committed to providing our community with the most effective and safe learning environment possible. We miss our students tremendously. Our hearts and hallways are empty without them.

Sincerely,  
Victoria McLaren  
Superintendent of Schools