

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

Victoria McLaren
Superintendent of Schools

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September 30, 2020

Dear Onteora Families,

As you know, we are very excited to welcome our students back to our buildings. I know that you have received letters from your Principals regarding the return to in person learning for your child. This is a situation that is constantly changing and I need to remind you that we will have to remain flexible as we move forward. The rate of infection within Ulster County is currently low, so we are optimistic that we will be able to remain open, but please be aware that we will need to be vigilant and responsive as we navigate through this pandemic.

As you know, in order to keep our schools open, we need to all commit to our shared responsibility to maintaining a healthy learning environment. Each day, you are being required to reaffirm that your child has not experienced any COVID related symptoms, has not had a positive COVID-19 test within the last 14 days, has not had close contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 case within 14 days, and has not traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days. This attestation can be found on the front page of our website or by utilizing this link:

<https://entry.neric.org/onteora>.

We are also asking you to affirm that you are following the practices and protocols that will keep all of us safe and that you are reviewing safety protocols with your child.

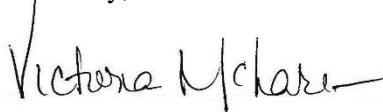
As we watch other Districts outside of Ulster County deal with reopening, we know that it is inevitable that we will have to quarantine individual classrooms, or entire buildings due to individuals being suspected or confirmed as positive for COVID. As per the contact tracing and testing component of our reopening plan, the guidelines established by the Ulster County Department of Health require that if any school in the District has three or more active cases at one time, involving more than one classroom, the school will close and work with the Ulster County Health Department's Rapid Response Team on mass testing of staff and students, subject to parent or guardian permission. All of the school districts in New York State are reporting COVID related data to the NYS Department of Health on a daily basis. This information is publicly available at:

<https://schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov/#/home>.

Our goal is to provide the best possible educational experience for our students while maintaining a safe and healthy environment. Intermittent closures of classrooms or school buildings will make it more complex and difficult for everyone involved so we must ask that everyone do their part to ensure a healthy school environment. If your child is ill, whether you suspect it may be COVID or some other illness, you must keep them home.

Thank you for your support. We must act as a caring and responsible community in order to succeed in this trying time.

Sincerely,



Victoria McLaren
Superintendent of Schools