

# NYMILLS

October  
2020

## UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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For the complete District  
calendar, schedule of  
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**MISSION:** "Through combined efforts of students, staff, parents, and community members, our mission is to foster the confidence, knowledge, cognition, and character necessary to instill a strong work ethic, to create an environment of tolerance and respect, and to ignite an attitude of inquiry and enthusiasm for learning that will enable students to become productive, responsible citizens."

## Message from the Superintendent

**Dear Residents,**

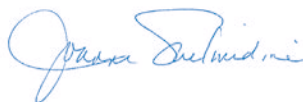
Thanks to the hard work of everyone in this district and community, we have successfully opened school. All of the screening, cleaning and disinfecting, the planning for teaching (whether in-person, remote or both), the work spent making classrooms as inviting as possible given the restrictions we are under, has paid off. We are a month into reopening and I am grateful for every day we are here and in session.

As we have seen from school districts in our region, we could be in a situation where we would need to move to remote instruction. If we had an exposure and needed to close for one day, I would probably use one of our five emergency days. If we had multiple exposures and needed to close the school doors for more days, we would switch to remote instruction. As happened last March, there will probably not be advanced warning, so please make sure that students are prepared to work remotely. Elementary students who are currently working remotely with OHM BOCES will continue with that program. Elementary teachers would only be responsible for remotely teaching the students currently in their classrooms.

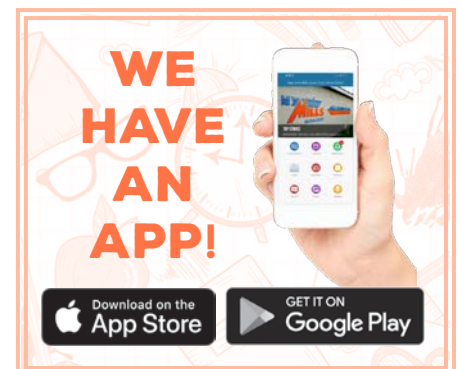
So even though things may look and feel differently, the start of this school year brought the excitement and enthusiasm for the fresh start we traditionally recognize as a hallmark of September and the beginning of fall.

Our mission remains to provide a high-quality educational program in a safe and secure learning environment. It is by working together that allows us to fulfill that mission.

**Respectfully,**



**Joanne Shelmidine, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools



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## **NYM Grades 7-12 Guidance and FAQs for Hybrid and Remote Instruction**

**Grades 7, 8 and 10 (Orange Cohort)** will attend in-person on Mondays and Tuesdays.

**Grades 9, 11 and 12 (Blue Cohort)** will attend in-person on Thursdays and Fridays.

Wednesday will be a day for “teacher office hours,” where students will be able to schedule time with their teachers individually for instructional support via Google Meet.

Please note: Some electives may be fully remote due to limitation of the in-person schedule.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How will students enter the building?**

Bus riders/walkers will enter through the front entrance. Car riders can once again be dropped off at the teacher’s entrance to speed up the screening process. At both locations, temperatures will be scanned, inquiries will be made about their general health and students will access hand sanitizer prior to entering classrooms.

### **How will remote instruction days work?**

Teachers will invite students to join their Google Classrooms via their school Gmail account. The first day of in-person instruction will be reviewing grading expectations and how to access and submit assignments.

During remote instruction, students will be expected to log in during regular school hours and submit assignments by the end of the blocked period for attendance and assessment of remote engagement.

For example: A 9th grade student who attends Thursday and Friday in-person will engage in their Thursday schedule remotely on Monday and their Friday schedule remotely on Tuesday.

Although they may not be engaged for the entire 78 minute blocks remotely, they will need to submit their assignments by the end of each of the four blocks per day.

### **What happens if we have no school on a Monday or Friday?**

If there is a four day week, we will not have Wednesday office hours. Instead, both groups of students will have two consecutive days of in-person instruction.

For example: There is no school on Monday, October 12. Therefore, grades 7, 8 and 10 will attend in-person on Tuesday and Wednesday, and grades 9, 11 and 12’s in-person schedule will remain Thursday and Friday.

### **Will grade policies change?**

We will return to following the grading policy approved by the Board of Education, however, since much of a student’s work will be done at home, 20% of each marking period grade will be based on remote

## **IN-PERSON BELL SCHEDULE**

Homeroom/Period 1 - 7:50 a.m.-9:15 a.m.

Period 2 - 9:18 a.m.-10:36 a.m.

Lunch - 10:39 a.m.-11:19 a.m.

Period 3 - 11:22 a.m.-12:40 p.m.

Period 4 - 12:43 p.m.-2:01 p.m.

*\*No after school activities until further notice.*

*NOTE: P-TECH and CTE students will be able to attend their BOCES classes at the Middle Settlement Road Campus five days a week. Transportation will be provided.*

engagement, in lieu of homework, for increased accountability in remote classes.

Grades will be kept in Google Classroom and emails will be sent to parents regarding progress, missing assignments, etc.

### **When are students required to wear masks?**

Students must wear masks at all times on the bus and in the school building, regardless of distance. Classroom teachers will provide students with mask breaks. Students may remove masks to eat lunch, when seated six feet apart from others in the cafeteria.

### **How are classroom transitioning procedures different?**

Students will not be assigned lockers, but will carry their materials for all of their periods that day (four) in their backpacks.

A few minutes before each bell, teachers will provide students with an alcohol-based disinfecting wipe to wipe down the top of their desk, seat and seat back which they can dispose of when they exit the room.

When moving from class to class students will have masks on, but should still attempt to leave space between themselves and others. They will be required and reminded to stay to the right of the hallway, leaving a clear path down the center.

### **How will students be released to lunch and at the end of the day?**

At the end of block two, half of the classrooms will be released to the cafeteria and the other half to the track (weather permitting) or gym. The gym will be marked so that students will be able to maintain a six foot distance from each other. At the midpoint of the lunch period, the two groups will switch locations.

Classrooms will be called to go to the buses and exit the building at the end of the day in a staggered manner for dismissal.



## Welcome Parents and Students

From Brent Dodge, K-12 Principal



The 2020-2021 school year is off to an amazing start! The students are happy and adjusting to all the changes in and around the building. Even with all the changes, adjustments and protocols, the opening of school has gone exceptionally well. There have been some minor bumps along the way that both teachers and students have adjusted to with little disruption.

One of the changes involved using our ancillary teachers to create additional sections in certain grade-levels in order to reduce class sizes. This in turn will impact areas of RTI, STEM and Library, but that impact is far surpassed by the gains we will achieve through having students in the building all day, every day. We have also begun a full rollout of our new computer skills curriculum called Keyboarding Without Tears, which is built right into the special rotation. The kids seem to be responding positively to it and improving every day. We have also added digital versions of both our ELA and Math curriculums to better support students and parents at home.

I can't express my gratitude enough to you, the parents, for the support of our teachers and district. The success of this plan can be attributed to all the faculty and staff including our Maintenance Department, who hustled in the weeks prior to opening to get the rooms and halls prepared, as well as our Transportation Department, who is responsible for getting the students here and returning them home safely. Truly a team effort!

It's a great year to be a Marauder!

## ASBESTOS NOTICE

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1987 (AHERA), a copy of the New York Mills UFSD Building Inspection Report and Management Plan is available for review from 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Monday - Friday or by appointment. Please contact Mr. Neil Fatata, Director of Facilities, at (315) 768-8156 if you need to set up an appointment or if you have any questions. Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES performs an Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Inspection Report every six months.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

As the district receives new instruction and information from the state on a regular basis, plans for our athletic programs are constantly changing. Please refer to our district's website for the most up-to-date information.

**Joe Palmer**  
Athletic Director

## Pesticide Notification

The New York Mills Union Free School District uses current Integrated Pest Management practices to reduce the use of pesticides in our buildings and on our grounds. It may be necessary, however, to use pesticides periodically during the year. New York state law requires that schools maintain a list of staff and parents who wish to receive a written notice 48 hours prior to a pesticide application at their school facility. If you wish to be included on this notification list, or would like further information, please contact Mr. Neil Fatata at (315) 768-8516. For further information on the district's pesticide program, contact our business manager at (315) 768-8127.



# Transportation Safety Tips

The New York Mills Transportation Department is pleased to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year. We hope your summer was relaxing, fun and memorable! Some of you are eager to start the new school year and others will be putting their little ones on our buses for the very first time. Regardless, we understand the preciousness of our cargo and will start off on the right foot! We look forward to getting to know your child and having a wonderful school year.

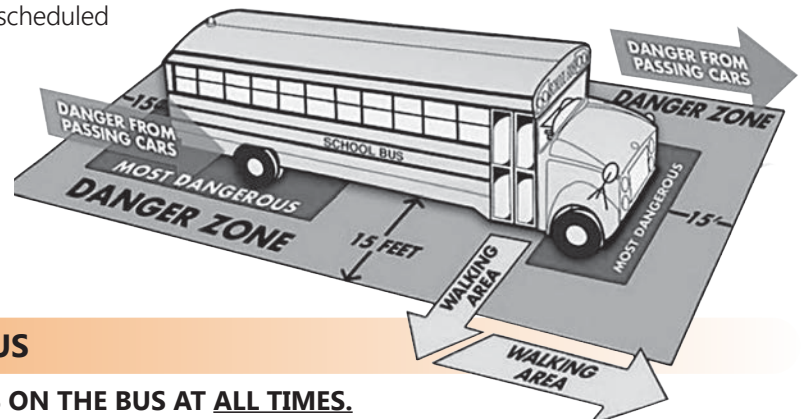


## SAFETY FIRST!

As always, our number one goal is safety! We intend to provide the safest transportation possible for the children that ride our buses. Not only do we provide state mandated safety training several times a year for our drivers and monitors, *we are consistently discussing safety and situations that can arise daily.* We also strive to teach our students safety and to avoid dangers at the bus stop as well. We go over safety procedures with our students three times a year required by law.

## RULES AT THE BUS STOP

- **Be in view** at your bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick-up; the driver will not wait for late students.
- If you must cross the street, **ALWAYS** cross in front of the bus so the driver can see you. **Wait for the driver's signal before you cross the street.**
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching.
- When departing from the bus, move away onto the sidewalk immediately.



## RULES WHILE RIDING IN THE SCHOOL BUS

- **MASKS MUST BE WORN BY ALL OCCUPANTS ON THE BUS AT ALL TIMES.**
- Stay in your seat.
- Keep the noise level down.
- No eating or drinking.
- No swearing or rude language/gestures.
- No fighting, harassing or intimidating others.
- Obey the driver's requests.
- No throwing things inside or out of the bus windows.
- Keep hands, feet and head inside the bus and to yourself.

**Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right.** Students are expected to follow the same behavior standards while riding on the school bus as when on school property and in school buildings.

1st offense – Verbal warning to the student by the bus driver.

2nd offense – Written warning to student/parent or guardian by principal; possible assigned seat.

3rd offense – Possible suspension from riding privileges.

As always, safety is our highest priority and if at any time you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Dispatcher (Patty Ward) at 315-768-7948. On behalf of all of our staff, we hope that you have a happy, healthy school year. WE WELCOME YOU!

## KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

We would like to remind you that a responsible person must be at the pick-up and drop-off point daily. If no one is at the stop when the bus arrives, the student will remain on the bus until the end of the run. If you are running late, please contact the Transportation Department and let the Dispatcher know so that she can communicate to the driver.









*Congratulations Graduates!*











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**Mary Facci**, *K-12 Executive Principal*  
**Brent Dodge**, *K-12 Principal*

### Visit us on the Web

<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

## 2020-2021 Board of Education Meeting Dates

The New York Mills Board of Education invites community members to virtually attend its meetings that are held on the dates below beginning at 6:00 p.m. Links for each meeting will be posted on the school's website when available. Please note - these meeting dates are subject to change.

**Tuesday, September 1, 2020**

**Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

**Tuesday, December 1, 2020**

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021**

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021**  
*Budget Workshop*

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021**  
*Budget Workshop*

**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

*Adopt Budget for Vote*

**Tuesday, April 20, 2021**

*Vote on BOCES Admin Budget*

**Tuesday, May 4, 2021**

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

***Budget Vote and Board Election***

**Tuesday, June 1, 2021**

