



VIRTUAL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

THE REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2020 | BUILDING THE FUTURE - ONE CHILD AT A TIME! | WWW.REMSENCSD.ORG

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- 2 High Tunnel Provides for School Meal Program
- 6 COVID-19 Information



"Like" us on Facebook
(www.facebook.com/remsencsd)



"Follow" us on Twitter
(@remsencsd)

CALENDAR

For the complete District calendar, schedule of upcoming events and more District news, please visit:
www.remsencsd.org.

Mission: "REMSEN is a dynamic school community of stakeholders providing diverse, demanding and innovative educational opportunities. Our culture fosters a conscientious desire to learn and achieve to individual potential. Students learn that responsible citizenship comes from critical, determined and sustained effort."

Message from the Superintendent



Dear Remsen Community:

This summer has been a remarkable experience. The level of teamwork, collaboration and support to develop and carry out Remsen Central School's Reopening Plan for our students and staff has been amazing. We may still be in the midst of a pandemic, but we can

certainly be grateful for our wonderful school community and for everyone that has gone above and beyond to safely prepare RCS for the new school year.

Parents, guardians, students and community members: thank you for sharing your questions, ideas and concerns, and for participating in our forums as we worked to build our plan. Your input definitely made a difference.

It is also important to recognize the hard work of our team members over the summer. Mr. Roberts and the custodial/grounds team have done a tremendous job balancing all of their routine summer cleaning and maintenance items with moving furniture and equipment, installing sanitizing equipment throughout the buildings, moving tables and desks, and relocating classrooms. Mr. DeGrace and our transportation team have been preparing for the new school year, working to coordinate bus runs with student group lists, hybrid schedules and parent transports. Our BOCES food service team is getting ready to serve our students breakfast and lunch. All of our administrative assistants continue to do a fantastic job working behind the scenes. Mrs. Harper in the CSE office has been working day and night to coordinate new schedules with IEP's, prioritized instruction and students' needs. Our teaching and counseling staff are preparing for multiple methods of teaching and learning. Both building principals and our business administrator have worked endless hours to plan and prepare for a safe reopening. And last, but certainly not least, high fives to both of our school nurses for their knowledge, input and assistance. They are to be commended for the work they have done so far and for the challenges they will be faced with during the pandemic.

For the large majority of children, there is no substitute for in-person learning, in-person support, in-person growth and in-person understanding. However, during this pandemic we must balance those needs with the health and safety pandemic guidelines to ensure that we are keeping students, staff, families and community members as safe and healthy as possible. Thank you for your help and assistance as we return to school during the pandemic. It will be essential for our entire community to continue to work together. Educating and reminding our children of the safety protocols that we all must follow while leading by example will be paramount for a successful, safe, reopening of school.

Please be sure to screen your child each morning before leaving the house, ensuring that they pass the four question COVID-19 screening questionnaire and that they do not present with a fever of 100 or greater. In addition, RCS staff will be taking temperatures before students enter buses or school when being dropped off, as an added layer of safety.

As we ready to start out a new school year together, like no one has ever had to do before, know that we will continue to keep you updated with important information. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns or feedback at any time throughout the year. We value your input.

Now, let's get excited for a new school year and the opportunity to have students back in our buildings! Regardless of the mode of instruction we must learn and teach under, we will do what it takes to ensure that Remsen Central School continues to *Soar to Success*.

Our Remsen community is strong. Together, we can get through anything. It is an honor and a privilege to be your Superintendent. Here's to a great school year ahead.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

Elementary School Principal's Message



Dear Remsen Families:

I trust that you are well and have enjoyed the summer months. I hope that you have stayed healthy and safe and have spent time with family and friends as much as possible. We have all been through quite a bit since March, when much of what we have come to know as "normal life" changed so abruptly. Overnight, many of our "normal" daily activities, including visiting friends and shopping for groceries, changed in ways that we could never have imagined. Without notice, there was a quick shift from school

to home, and educational opportunities provided by classroom teachers were broadcast through video conferencing technology directly into your homes.

As a team, the Remsen community pulled together to make remote learning work. Through phone calls, video conferencing and social media, we stayed connected and did the best that we could for the students of Remsen. As we prepare for this new school year, that same level of teamwork is going to be needed. Over the summer, we have been hard at work preparing, planning, readjusting and replanning for the reopening of school. The ever-changing guidance and the requirements to change or adjust almost every aspect of the school day have made this very challenging. The focus throughout this time has been to bring students back into the classroom as safely as possible.

With the start of the school year quickly approaching, we are moving forward with our reopening plan, which is to offer virtual learning for our pre-kindergarten students and in-person instruction to all students kindergarten through sixth grade. We have rearranged and reassigned classrooms and teachers so that we are able to keep our class sizes to 15 students or less, which allows us to have student desks placed six feet apart at all times. Students will enter the school each day and head to their classrooms where they will spend the day learning with their peers. Special area classes, such as art, music and physical education, as well as lunch and recess will come to students in order to limit transitions through the hallways. With social distancing built into the classroom setup, there will be regular opportunities for students to have mask breaks, and when appropriate and possible due to weather conditions, students will be brought outdoors for learning opportunities. The school day will look quite different for everyone, but it has been our goal throughout this planning process to preserve the warm, fun, inviting atmosphere of the elementary school, while making it possible to keep our students as safe as possible with the guidelines that we have been given.

I am looking forward to the start of another great school year at Remsen Elementary School. With all that is going on in the world around us, there are still many questions about what the new school year will bring. Whatever comes our way, I am comforted in the fact that we will be facing this new year together. Just as we have in the past, the Remsen community will stick together and support each other through whatever comes our way. As of the writing of this letter, the first day of school for students will be on Tuesday, September 8. I look forward to seeing many of you on the first day as I greet students entering the building. As always, if you ever have any comments, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. It is only in working together that we will be able to provide the best for the students of Remsen Elementary School.

Gary Winghart

Elementary School Principal

2



Important Dates

Subject to change due to the pandemic

SEPTEMBER

- 2** Supt. Conf. Day
Virtual Back to School Night,
ES and HS, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- 3** Supt. Conf. Day
- 8** First Day of School for Students
BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 12** ACT
- 17** Booster Club Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 26** SAT
- 28-
10/2** Spirit Week
- 30** ES Band Recruitment Night

OCTOBER

- 2** Jr./Sr. HS 5-Week Progress
Interval Ends
- 3** SAT
- 5** ES Band Recruitment Night with
Big Apple, 6:30 p.m.
- 6** Pre-K Fire House Trip/
Fire Safety
- 8** Financial Aid Planning Night,
Media Center, 6:30 p.m.
- 9** Supt. Conf. Day - No School
Jr./Sr. HS Progress Reports
Mailed
- 12** Columbus Day - No School
- 13** BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 14** PSAT at Remsen
- 15** Booster Club Meeting,
6:00 p.m.
- 16** Picture Day
- 24** ACT
- 26** Modified Volleyball Begins
- 30** Pre-K Halloween Gathering,
1:30-2:00 p.m.

A Message from the Jr./Sr. High School Principal



To My Remsen Family,

This year has provided challenges that most of us have never had to endure. Personally, for every difficulty, I try to find a positive aspect to focus on and adjust course in that new positive direction. Every challenge, at the very least, provides us an opportunity to overcome it and appreciate the many things we can be thankful for, such as belonging to an outstanding community. It is with this perspective that I take on a new role as the Remsen Jr./Sr. High School Principal.

I have had the privilege of interacting with many of you already. I joined the Remsen Central School District Faculty in 2015 as a science teacher in the high school, and have been committed to this remarkable community since that time. However, if I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you yet, I am writing to introduce myself and share a bit of information about me.

I was born and raised in central New York. I graduated from Utica College, majoring in biology and philosophy, before attending the University of Wisconsin and receiving a graduate degree in cellular and molecular biology. I returned to central New York and pursued a career in education, receiving a master's degree in adolescent education from Utica College while teaching high school science nearby at Holland Patent High School. While teaching, I continued my studies, pursuing multiple graduate degrees in science education and educational leadership from Syracuse University. I truly understand what students experience, being in school all day and working on classwork at night, as I am set to finish one of my degrees from Syracuse later this year. However busy this keeps me, I wouldn't change it. I truly love getting up each day and getting to work with my students here at Remsen CSD.

My wife, Tara, is the owner of Dance 10 Studio, running a program in Barneveld for more than 20 years. I've been at the recitals, usually pulling curtains or cleaning up, and have met many Remsen families during our time together. Tara and I have two of our own amazing children. My 10-year-old daughter keeps me involved in the dance scene, and my 13-year-old son plays ice hockey. They both take after their mother, being incredibly bright, dedicated and talented. When I'm not spending time with my family, I am a fitness enthusiast participating in CrossFit and obstacle course racing. I set my schedule so I can get an hour workout before school and on the weekends I'm usually running up and down mountains, carrying sandbags and climbing over, under or through whatever is in my path.

While I love working in the science classroom with my students, I also have grown especially fond of Remsen. I'm committed to do whatever I can to support and serve Remsen students, their families and our school staff, even taking on new challenges as principal at the high school. My hope is to continue working directly with students, their families and the staff to create the safe, supportive learning environment that prepares students. I want students ready to not only take on the challenges of life outside the school as it is now, but to blaze new paths and lead others as our future unfolds.

I'm incredibly thankful that you have already welcomed me into this amazing community, and I look forward to taking on the challenges of a new role to help Remsen CSD continue to achieve the success it rightfully deserves.

Most sincerely,

Dan O'Bryan

Jr./Sr. High School Principal

**New
Employee
Spotlight**

John McKeown – School Business Administrator

Mr. McKeown comes to the Remsen CSD with almost 20 years of experience as a school business administrator. His experience includes leadership in statewide professional organizations and as a presenter for the School Boards Institute's fiscal training for new board members.

Academically, Mr. McKeown has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business, Master of Science degree in finance and a Certificate of Advanced Study in school business administration. Additionally, he has completed PhD coursework in curriculum, instruction and the learning sciences. He is currently an adjunct professor of Finance and Economics at the University of Maryland Global Campus.

Mr. McKeown resides in Rome with his wife, Maureen and two sons, Daniel and James. Recreationally, he enjoys flying, kayaking and hiking.



Remsen CSD's High Tunnel Makes Contributions to School Meal Program

The first harvest from the Remsen Central School District's high tunnel was quietly carried out on May 8. The high tunnel is a non-heated greenhouse meant to extend the growing season in cooler climates like central New York.

A team of teachers wrote and received a grant to cover all costs associated with building the high tunnel, and planned on using it in instructional programs for both the elementary and high schools this spring. With the disruption of the school year surrounding COVID-19, using the tunnel for instruction wasn't possible. However, several groups within the school saw the potential for the high tunnel to make contributions to the school and community even during this challenging time. With the generous assistance of Remsen CSD alum Erin Corrigan, the school's Health and Wellness Committee and STEAM PLC committed to making the tunnel operational. By working individual shifts to practice good social distancing, the team was able to move topsoil and compost to prepare raised beds, tilled soil for growing produce and began planting.

On May 8, several bags of fresh arugula and radishes were harvested and given to the school's kitchen staff to be used in preparing meals. The tunnel will continue to be tended throughout the spring, summer and fall, adding to meals for students and community members with fresh, locally grown produce such as various leafy-greens, cucumbers, squash, garlic, onions, herbs and melons. When classes at school resume, the tunnel will be ready for students to assist in its efforts, as well as adding valuable hands-on experiences to their academic studies.



So What's the Trick to Keeping Your Pet Free of Ticks?

Unfortunately, ticks have crawled their way across the USA causing mild to severe infection of vector-borne illness in both dogs and people. Ticks do get a bad wrap as some deserve, but not all ticks carry disease.



The best way for you and your pet to remain tick free is to talk to your veterinarian about the right tick prevention product for your pet as well as having your pet receive any vaccinations that are available, such as the Lyme vaccine.

Ticks enjoy a bite from you or your pet. They're not fussy. They just need a ride to dinner. Following some simple tips may help you and your pet starve a hungry tick.

- Choose and use the choice of product you and your vet think is best for your pet and purse.
- After adventuring outside, make sure to do a tick check on you and your pet. Ticks love to snuggle up in and around; the ears, around the eyelids, under your pet's collar, around the tail, between and under the legs, and between the toes.
- If you find a tick on yourself or your pet, remove it as soon as you can by grasping the tick as close to the skin surface as possible with a set of fine tipped tweezers. Pull steadily upward without twisting or jerking so you won't break off the mouth parts. Never fear, if you do, you can get them out with the tweezers, or just let the site heal after cleaning it with some rubbing alcohol or soap and water. You'll want to put that nasty little critter in a container with a little alcohol or give it a flush down the toilet. Just don't get crazy and crush or dissect it with your fingers and remember to wash your hands. Watch for any signs of illness or rash at the site on you or your pet and seek medical advice from your vet or HCP when needed.
- Finally, the critter (tick) count in your yard can be minimized by regular mowing and clearing brush and debris where ticks love to camp out. This will keep your pet from bringing ticks in the house to live with you.

These tips and many others, as well as information on Lyme disease, different types of ticks, and what diseases they carry can be found on the CDC website, [CDC.gov/ticks](https://www.cdc.gov/ticks).



Congratulations to our Class of 2020 Graduates!

This past June 28, Remsen Central School District held its 121st commencement. Students graduated from RCSD after years of hard work and dedication, and a final year that was far different than the rest. The ceremony was held outside on the track/soccer field and to accommodate social distancing guidelines, each graduate was able to invite up to four guests for a total guest count of 150 people in attendance. Special congratulations to our Valedictorian Kirsten Waterbury and Salutatorian Amber Palen for their hard work and dedication to their studies.

Several students graduated with Regents or Advanced Regents diplomas, served as class officers and got involved with music or other extracurricular activities, a true testament to their consistent hard work and personal growth throughout their time in the Remsen Central School District.

Congratulations, also, to our sixth graders and pre-K students who participated in their own socially distanced celebrations this past June.

On June 17, the sixth grade graduation ceremony premiered on YouTube for students and families to see. Following the viewing of the video, the sixth grade students were invited a get together via Zoom. The graduation ceremony can be viewed at the following web address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96UvOmqDjOQ>.

Copies of the video were made into DVDs for each of the students. On June 18, the DVDs along with certificates and awards were given to students during their drive-thru ceremony. Families drove through the bus loop at the elementary school, one car at a time, to receive these items and for the opportunity to take a picture with the teachers from the fifth and sixth grade team.

On June 15, pre-kindergarten students visited the elementary school, by car, for their moving-up drive-thru ceremony. Families drove through the bus loop at the elementary school, one car at a time, and students were handed certificates, kindergarten readiness kits and goodie-bags by their teachers Mrs. Spatto and Mrs. Paige and Principal Mr. Winghart.

We wish the best of luck to our newest alumni and continued success to all of our students in the upcoming 2020-21 school year!



CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE CLASS OF 2020!



COVID-19: What You Need to Know

COVID-19 Screening Protocol

Before parents/guardians allow their child to leave the house, they must screen their child, take their temperature to ensure it is below 100 degrees, and be able to answer “no” to all four screening questions listed below:

1. Have you been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19, or who has had symptoms of COVID-19?
2. Have you tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
3. Have you experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature 100°F or greater in the past 14 days?
4. Have you travelled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19, per the NYS travel advisory in the past 14 days?

PLEASE SCREEN YOUR CHILD BEFORE SENDING THEM TO SCHOOL EVERY MORNING.

IF YOUR CHILD IS WAITING FOR THE BUS OR BEING DROPPED OFF AT SCHOOL, YOU HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE ANSWER TO EACH OF THE FOUR QUESTIONS ABOVE IS “NO” AND THAT THEY DO NOT PRESENT WITH A FEVER OF 100 DEGREES OR HIGHER.

Please Note: School screeners will also be required to take students' temperatures before entering a bus or entering school if dropped off. The school screener's temperature reading for each student is the reading that RCS must go by. The screener will take an additional reading if the student presents with a temperature of 100 or higher to ensure accuracy.

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.

When in public, wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth.

Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:

Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fever or chills

Muscle or body aches

Vomiting or diarrhea

New loss of taste or smell

Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering

Accessible: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

WEAR YOUR FACE COVERING CORRECTLY

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Do not place a mask on a child younger than 2



USE THE FACE COVERING TO HELP PROTECT OTHERS

- Wear cloth face coverings in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain
- Don't put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, clean your hands

FOLLOW EVERYDAY HEALTH HABITS

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available



TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTH FACE COVERING CAREFULLY, WHEN YOU'RE HOME

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in the washing machine
- Wash your hands with soap and water



CS316488A 07/06/2020

Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, both of which should be saved for health care workers and other medical first responders.

For instructions on making a cloth face covering, see:

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



7



REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 406, 9733 Main St.
Remsen, New York 13438

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mary Lou Allen, *President*

Brian Parent, *Vice President*

Stephanie Karis

Patrick Nolan

Mark Williams

Timothy Jenny,

Superintendent

www.Remsencsd.org

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
P.O. Box 406, Main St.
Remsen, NY 13438
PERMIT NO. 7

— SOAR TO SUCCESS —

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS AND BUS DRIVERS NEEDED!

The Remsen Central School District is seeking per diem substitute teachers for grades K-12 and substitute bus drivers for the 2020-21 school year.

The Remsen Central School District maintains an active list of substitute teachers who are utilized on an as-needed basis, to cover the classroom in the absence of the regular (full-time) teachers. The primary role of the substitute teacher is to continue student learning along the continuum, established by the teacher for whom he/she is substituting.

Substitute teachers, providing day-to-day service, are paid at the per diem rate, for the actual days worked. They do not receive any benefits. The Remsen Central School District substitute teacher rates are \$90.00 per day for non-certified teachers and \$100.00 per day for certified teachers. Substitute bus drivers earn \$18.22 per hour.

Interested candidates may submit their completed application and a letter of interest to:

Timothy Jenny, Superintendent of Schools
Remsen Central School District
P.O. Box 406
Remsen, NY 13438

Applications can be found on the district's website at www.remsencsd.org/jobs.

*The Remsen Central School District is
an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

School Lunch Information

The 2020-2021 school year is rapidly approaching and the School Food Service staff look forward to welcoming your child back for another year here at the Remsen Central School District. The district contracts with the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES to provide school food services with healthy, well-balanced meals.

The school district offers families the opportunity to complete a free/reduced price meal application. Whether you feel that you qualify or not, please take a few minutes to complete the application and submit it to the school office.

If your child(ren) received free/reduced price meals this past school year, you must reapply annually for these benefits to continue. Free and reduced lunch applications are available at www.remsencsd.org/schoollunch or from the elementary and high school main offices.

We encourage all parents and caregivers to apply. If you have any questions, please call the BOCES School Food Service office at 315.738.0848.

Breakfast prices for 2020-21:

\$1.25 - full-price

FREE - reduced price meals

Lunch prices for 2020-21:

\$2.75 - full-price

FREE - reduced price meals