



Superintendent of Schools
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Dear Parents/Guardians/Faculty/Staff:

Below is an update on COVID related public health measures and our beginning of school for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Our summer protocols will come to an end on Friday, September 3rd. Beginning Tuesday, September 7th all students and staff will wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, when inside our school buildings or on our school buses. Masks will not be required outside of buildings, though social distancing will be encouraged.
- It seems very possible that throughout this school year we will need to be prepared for changing guidance from a variety of sources and changing community health indicators. As we move forward I anticipate continued need for reevaluation and shifts in our practices and protocols. Cortland County is currently listed as a County at the Substantial Level of Community Transmission. This information is presented on the CDC's Covid Data Tracker.
- Our goal for the 2021-22 school year is to stay open for in-person instruction, for all of our students, for the entire school year. We believe we can do this safely. COVID related public health measures will be implemented with this goal in mind.
- Masking will allow our classrooms to return mostly to normal. Because we will all be in masks, seating can be flexible. This will allow students to be seated at tables and in arrangements that allow student and staff collaboration. Mask breaks will continue to be implemented and will be designed based in the current guidance.

Throughout this school year I anticipate changes to our protocol and practice. Similar to last year, our team will continue to monitor the guidance related to Covid and will respond accordingly. I was very proud last year of our capacity to flexibly and fluidly respond to the changing conditions we were confronted with. To the great credit of our families and our staff, we did it! We all proved a great amount of resilience, composure, and true grit. This year we will do even better.

#WeAreCortland

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bob Edwards'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Edwards

First day of school

- ★ First day of school for students is Wednesday, September 8
- ★ We are excited for in person learning for all students.
- ★ Communication will be coming in various forms from all buildings in the next few weeks.

Staff and Student Day - Barry, Smith, Randall

- ★ Instructional Staff - 8:15 am - 3:30 pm
- ★ TA's and Aides - Please see your specific schedule for start and end times.
- ★ Doors will open for students at 8:15 am. Students arriving after 8:45 will be marked tardy.
- ★ Dismissal for walkers and parent pick-up will be 3:15.
- ★ Bus students will dismiss as buses arrive - after 3:15.

Staff and Student Day - Jr. Sr. High School

- ★ JSHS - doors open for students at 7:20. The time for staff is 7:25 - 2:40 (Tardy - 7:39)

School Day

- ★ Temperature Screening will occur at the entrance.
- ★ Lunch in the cafeteria at the elementary level (Layered protection includes eating in cohorts, assigned seats, alternative seating and spacing, 30 minute lunch period)
- ★ Lunch at the Junior High [2 Lunch periods separated by cohort (LB and 6th), 30-38 minute lunch period, possible vaccinations, alternative seating and spacing]
- ★ Lunch at the Senior High [3 lunch periods (5,7 & 8), 38 minute lunch period, possible vaccinations, alternative seating and spacing]
- ★ Breakfast at High School and Junior High - grab and go from cafeteria then to homeroom
- ★ Breakfast at Barry and Randall - food served in the classroom
- ★ Breakfast at Smith in the cafeteria (separated by cohort, less students, continuous movement coming in and going out)
- ★ Entry protocols includes a temperature screening at all buildings
 - Barry - 4 access points
 - Smith - Single point of access
 - Randall - 2 access points of entry
 - Junior and Senior High School - Multiple points of entry (5 access points)
- ★ High temperature upon entry - go to nurse and recheck temperature, send home, and return to school requires a negative test or pediatrician clearance
- ★ Recommend to all staff and students to maintain a daily health screening
- ★ Minimum of 3 feet spacing in all music classes. Singing with a mask is required. All teachers are conscientious of seating charts in music class.
- ★ All classrooms must have a seating chart on file.
- ★ Flexible grouping will occur with masks on.
- ★ Students can sit at tables or desks. They may be facing each other with masks on.
- ★ Masks breaks - at least once every hour at K-6 and once a period at 7-12
- ★ Student materials can be shared. Encourage handwashing and/or sanitizer prior to and after use.
- ★ Medical homebound tutoring will commence and be enhanced - we may tutor in person at the library, Kaufman Center, or in the building when possible and we may also use technology with google meets as well. Parents will work with their Building Principal for questions.
- ★ Return to special area classes in typical format

Visitors

- ★ Limitation of visitors in each space; volunteers can return to near normal levels - be thoughtful of safety and health practices

School Events

- ★ Larger indoor school events can occur with masks and distancing (layered protections of cohorts, social distancing within the arena, possibility of resource officer or police presence at events to enforce masks, staggered times, virtual options)
- ★ Seasonal holiday parties (Harvest, Holiday, and Valentines) food items will be provided by the school
- ★ Outside food should be individually packaged or store bought
- ★ No mask requirement outdoors - encourage social distancing

Staff Specific

- ★ Rugs are available K-6 - Principals will be in touch

Remote Practice Days*

- ★ Proposal for Remote Practice Days - similar to last year
- ★ Remote practice days - following existing daily schedule: September 27 (staff will report to the building) and November 1 (staff will work from alternative spaces)
- ★ Potential use of remote learning days for snow days if we are in danger of losing state aid

Quarantine*

- ★ Awaiting specific guidance in partnership with Cortland County Health Department and our State Health Department Liaisons
- ★ Expectation for quarantined students:
 - K-12, offer after school tutoring for days of quarantine or asynchronous instruction through google classroom (print attendance)
 - PE will post work

Sports and Physical Education class

- ★ P.E. class returns to near normal - masks all in door but typical class sizes
- ★ Spectators allowed at both indoor and outdoor events - no limitation at this time - masks indoor
- ★ Varsity and JV Fall season begins August 23
- ★ Modified Fall season begins August 30