

# Schoharie Central School District

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September 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the start of what promises to be a memorable school year. Although we have not been together in person since March 13th, through the spring and summer technology has made our school community closer than ever. This summer we laid the groundwork for a reopening of school that brings many of us back to the building for in-person learning while 16% of our students will be joining us virtually at home. From the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone who has read the reopening plan carefully, watched the three reopening forums, or reached out to ask us questions and shared ideas. Whether you have your child's school supplies set up in a space in your home for virtual learning or packed in a book bag to bring into school, the collaboration has just begun. Our staff looks forward to partnering closely with you this school year as we work to provide our students a safe, nurturing and academically challenging school experience.

If you have not reviewed the reopening information on the district website, I ask you to please do so now. Our students are experiencing many changes this year, and we need your help to prepare them for this. The facts about how we are reopening our schools are found at <https://www.schoharieschools.org/>. Please check back frequently as all updates to the plan and protocols will be posted here.

Please be sure to complete the daily COVID-19 screening attestation form 15 minutes prior to arriving at school or boarding the bus. This form can be found at: <https://entry.org/schoharie> or on the district website.

Due to the large number of families transporting their children this year, in conjunction with social distancing protocols, the process for drop-off and pick-up was changed. For this to be successful, it will be important for you to review the arrival and dismissal plan carefully. I anticipate it will take a week or so to get into the routine, so please plan accordingly. Thank you in advance for your patience and full cooperation.

Although we are unable to welcome visitors into the school at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will continue to connect by phone, email, and virtual meetings like we did when school was closed in the spring. As we move into the school year, we look forward to welcoming guests "into the classroom" virtually, with the goal of keeping many of the traditions we've loved for so long alive, such as mystery readers and our schoolwide celebrations.

Please note there will be no Open House this year. Classroom teachers will be contacting you to arrange for reopening orientations conducted virtually during the week of September 8-September 11. For our students learning virtually, families will be able to pick up textbooks, electronics, and other materials to be borrowed for at-home use the week of September 7-September 11. Details will be sent through SchoolMessenger.

Moving forward, you will see a significant change in the amount of paperwork going back and forth. With this being said, if you do not already receive text messages and emails

regarding school/district notifications through SchoolMessenger, please contact the office at 518-295-6651 to get set-up. This will be the main method used to inform you of events, important dates, closings and delays.

Although at last year's Open House, I stressed that our children are being raised in a world full of realities we only dreamed of while watching shows like the Jetson's as children, I never imagined I'd be welcoming our families back in this way one year later. In over 20 years as an educator, I've seen many changes. Despite the difficulties we may face, I am confident that our students (who have been greatly missed) and our dedicated team of educators will embrace the uncertainties and challenges this new school year brings. With your support, we look forward to working with your child(ren) as they grow in their smaller learning cohort. I look forward to reopening school this year on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Andrea Polikoski  
Principal