



CARMEL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ERIC M. STARK

Acting Superintendent of Schools

July, 23, 2020

Dear Carmel Community:

I hope this finds you and your families well and enjoying the summer. I wanted to provide an update on our plans for re-opening our schools in September.

Last week we received guidance from the [NYS Department of Health](#) and from the [NYS Education Department \(NYSED\)](#). We are also working with the Putnam County Department of Health and are in contact with districts in our region to share information that can assist in our planning. While we have actively been working on developing our plans since early June, these documents and our conversations with local school districts and others provides us with both clarity and flexibility as we continue to develop a plan for Carmel Schools.

At the July 21, 2020 Board of Education meeting, our Re-Entry Core team members presented information about the responsibilities and objectives for each area we are addressing in our plan. Please take a few minutes to review this presentation on our [website](#). You may also be interested in [viewing the video](#) of that portion of the meeting. We have also provided a tool for our community to [submit questions](#).

As we approach the July 31 deadline to submit our re-entry plan to NYSED please know our teams are working diligently so that students and staff may return to our schools in some capacity this Fall. We do this with these guiding principles in the forefront:

- Ensure the safety and well-being of all students and employees.
- Promote equity and accessibility to learning for all students.
- Provide instructional delivery systems to meet the needs of all students. The plan will include continuity of learning, alignment with NYS standards and regular substantive interaction between teachers and students.
- Foster positive relationships and interactions

By July 31, we will post on our website, information that outlines our plan, protocols and procedures. Our plans are intentionally designed for flexibility in the event we must quickly pivot from one of the three models to another based upon infection rates in our County/region (the 3 models include all students returning, all students distance learning, and a hybrid of in-school and distance learning).

In the meantime, **here are some steps you can take to prepare your children for September.**

Cultivating Opportunities



- Teach and model for your children how to maintain social distancing and use of a face covering outside the home.
- Emphasize proper hygiene with your children including washing hands and avoiding touching their faces.
- Purchase or make a personalized face covering for your child. The District will provide face coverings if needed.
- Try to be as positive as possible about back-to-school. The current situation is difficult in many ways and we will continue to face challenges.
- Continue to check our [COVID-19 website](#) for information and updates.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Eric M. Stark
Acting Superintendent of Schools

