



Sachem Central School District

Christopher J. Pellettieri, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

October 22, 2020

Dear Sachem Family,

Good evening all, as it has been some time since I last wrote to you. I wanted to bring you up to date on some of the many changes you have perhaps begun to see or will see over the coming days and weeks.

Remote Learning Academy: We have essentially built a school for our remote learners with dedicated remote teachers for grades 6-12 for our dedicated remote grades 6-12 inclusion and general ed students. It will take place three days a week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for five periods a day. It will include Math, English, Social Studies, Science and Foreign Language from 2:00 - 5:40 PM with five minute breaks between periods. These lessons will be recorded and posted on Google classroom so students can go back to review or if they cannot make a lesson due to scheduling issues or lack of devices in the home. Please note any courses that your child is presently taking that does not appear on their new remote schedule, will continue through their home school via Google classroom. This will begin on October 27th. Remote students will come off classroom rosters that they are on now and will be handed off to the new remote teachers. All grades and work completed thus far will of course count. Parents of remote students will receive a letter and a Connect Ed call in regards to the Remote Academy when schedules are ready to print. If you are a remote student and did not receive a message and schedule, please reach out to Mr. Cruz (631-471-1400) or Mr. Horan (631-471-1700). This was not a simple undertaking and took a great deal of ingenuity from staff including District Office, school administrators and our teachers. We have dedicated a multitude of our resources and human capital to this endeavor. It took some time, but I am confident these changes to the education we are delivering to our remote students will be positive.

New Secondary Bell Schedule: We will be moving to a new secondary bell schedule to create time during the school day for staff to interact with our at home hybrid students. The school/work day will stay exactly the same for staff but students will have two minutes shaved off each period and additional minutes taken from homeroom to allow teachers to work and communicate with hybrid students on a daily basis. Each school will send home its updated bell schedule in the next day or so as we will begin

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the new bell schedule on Tuesday, October 27th. Students will be released, and busses will arrive home a few minutes earlier so please take note of this change.

Clubs: There will be over 100 clubs in person, hybrid and remote which will begin on Monday, October 26th. We thank our advisors who came up with a multitude of plans to ensure we could reach all of the students who wanted to participate in a safe way. There will be a late club bus at 2:30 at the high schools and 3:20 at the middle schools Monday through Friday for in person students to take home.

Sports Return to Play: Our coaches and sports team are starting to come back for outdoor individual conditioning. Athletes should check in with coaches for their respective sports as to when and where. Mr. Beutel, Ms. McEntee and Ms. Trombetta, along with the coaches have worked extremely hard to bring our athletes back in a safe and fun way. I look forward to more and more happening with our school sports as we move forward.

Sports equipment such as soccer balls are being introduced safely into Physical Education classes and lunch recess in our elementary schools.

Distance Learning: Due to an earlier COVID outbreak we were forced to transition to Distance Learning at North HS for a period of time. While unfortunately, we had to close for in person learning, we did come together to create a Distance Learning bell schedule for instruction. Now that we have this Distance Learning bell schedule in place at both the secondary and elementary level if we are ever forced to undertake a similar transition in a building we should be able to smoothly transition in and out of Distance Learning.

Return of ICT students: At last night's Board of Education meeting, it was decided that we would bring all of our inclusion students back to school for daily in person teaching. This will require thoughtful planning and the purchase and placement of desk shields in some places. More information will follow with a time frame of mid to late November.

Technology Update: We have several very successful livestreaming pilots ongoing in grade levels and schools all across the district. As we work behind the scenes to improve and upgrade our bandwidth, we have outfitted our classrooms with cameras and are looking to do more in this area with more classrooms. The District also made a purchase of 1,000

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Chromebooks which we are looking to take delivery and deploy around the New Year.

We have received many of our MERV 13 filters and have begun the laborious task of replacing all the MERV 8 filters throughout the entire district. This is a strong health and safety upgrade for our students and staff. I wish to thank all of those involved in this work.

As always, I thank you for your patience, understanding and incredible flexibility in a year described by many as unprecedented in education.

Please stay well.

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