



SALMON RIVER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

637 Co. Rt. 1, Fort Covington, New York 12937 • Tel: (518) 358-6600 • Fax (518) 358-9776

Dr. Stanley Harper
Superintendent

Angela Robert
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

July 31, 2020

Dear Salmon River Parents, Students, Staff and Community,

This year has been challenging both mentally and physically for all of us as we navigate through this COVID-19 pandemic. I, like many of you during this unsettling time, have been hoping that we would be able to return to school as normal. However, in order to ensure we have a safe reopening of our school this fall we will be faced with a new normal in education. Whether it is in-person, remote learning or a hybrid model there will be new guidelines and restrictions that we must adhere to. Nonetheless, we understand that you as parents will make your decisions on what returning to school looks like for your family, either on-line or in-person/hybrid. We recognize that everyone has their personal beliefs, fears, opinions, and understanding for returning to school in the fall. While I would prefer to provide a reopening plan that can please everyone, it is unfortunate that the laws and mandates we must adhere to in New York State may differ from your personal opinions within your families. Again, we do recognize that people have legitimate fears, and we are doing our best to make this a soft launch for reopening. Remember as parents you have a choice to send your child or children to school in-person or online. No matter what you choose Salmon River CSD will educate your child or children no matter the conditions. We will follow these models until it is safe to return back to the normal traditional school that we are all so used to.

We acknowledge that things were not perfect in the spring as we implemented remote learning overnight. We were learning together during that period, but now we must make sure that every student is participating in their educational process and that they will receive a high-quality education no matter what model of instruction is implemented.

As I have communicated to the entire community and school staff various times, our NYSED "Reopening and Redesign Plan" will be posted on our district website on July 31, 2020. You will be able to open the plan up and read it. I believe you will be able to find answers to your questions about the reopening of schools and the protocols, processes and expectations. In addition we are also posting on our website a Frequently Asked Questions and Answers document as well as many other resources for families.

In order to create the framework for the reopening plan, the District gathered essential stakeholders to serve on the Superintendent Roundtable Steering Committees. The committee provided and gathered community input to shape our reopening plan and help navigate the District through the "new normal" of how we operate in our schools. **As required**, this plan incorporates the guidelines from the ***Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NYS Department of Health (DOH) and the NYS Education Department (NYSED)***. Periodic meetings were held with the **Franklin County Department of Public Health** leaders to advise our planning so that employees, students, and families feel safe upon returning to the school district. This plan is a "living document", and will be updated periodically as changes are made by the NYSED, NYSDOH, CDC, Federal-Level and our local

agencies. I want to give a great big “Thank You” to all the subcommittee members for contributing to the creation of the Salmon River CSD plan.

Under the direction of the Governor and NYSED, the Salmon River CSD was required to “...prioritize efforts to return all students to in-person instruction...” (NYSED, 2020). However, NY State realizes that local conditions may not be conducive to providing in-person completely, so the district must provide in-person instruction as fully as possible. As a result, New York State has asked districts to provide three instructional models for returning to school in the fall. Each of these models of learning is explained in further detail in the plan. Governor Cuomo has stated that further guidance will be released by August 7th. We will adjust our plan if needed, based on the Governor's decision.

We know that you may have questions about the 2020-2021 school year that may not be addressed in our previous updates on Health and Safety, and Academic Instruction. With this in mind, we will be holding a series of virtual town hall meetings and in-person town hall meetings in August to address questions and concerns. More information about these sessions will be released next week.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stanley Harper