

Dear Pawling Parents, Students, and Staff,

I am writing to provide you with a few updates as they relate to the opening of school for the 2020-2021 school year.

Re-Entry and Revised Calendar Approved

Last night, our Board of Education approved our re-entry plan. All of the staff, faculty, and administrators at Pawling CSD continue to prepare carefully and steadily for the re-entry of our students. The Board of Education also approved a revised calendar, which makes the first day of school September 9. Please note that this first day will be an "in-person" day for only kindergarten, grade 5, and part of grade 9. All other students will have a remote learning day. Principals will be communicating the staggered opening schedule as it applies to each grade level. We apologize for the inconvenience. We take these steps to provide an excellent orientation for all of the students to the new procedures for their in-person or hybrid schedule. To repeat, the first day of school is now September 9 for all students. K, 5, and part of grade 9 will be in person. All other students will be learning remotely. A staggered schedule of return and orientation will follow from the principals.

Working Together for Everyone's Health

One of the very important factors allowing us to return students to face-to-face and hybrid instruction is the low infection rate in our region. Schools are simply part of our larger community. All of us have contributed to the containment of COVID-19 and these collective efforts have earned our children the opportunity to return to school. Nevertheless, we must continue to be vigilant. Please keep these things in mind as you plan activities for the next two weeks:

1. travel--if you travel to states that are on the travel advisory, beginning tomorrow, your children will not be able to return to school for in person learning because they will be quarantined based on New York State guidelines for two weeks from the date of their return to New York.
2. out-of-school activities--please continue to be careful and cautious. In public, please be certain to wear a face covering, remain six feet apart from others, and enforce these expectations with your children.

I thank you for your attention to these considerations. In abiding by these guidelines, you are contributing to the health and safety of all of our students and all of our staff.

We look forward to welcoming your student to a new, different, but equally caring, engaging, and rewarding school year.

Sincerely,

Kim Fontana