



CARMEL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ERIC M. STARK

Acting Superintendent of Schools

July 31, 2020

Dear Carmel Community:

Despite the uncertain landscape the COVID-19 pandemic brings, one thing we can all be sure of is that the 2020-2021 school year will be like no other. Since early June, we have been working to develop a plan to return students and staff to our schools in the Fall with our primary concern in mind--the health and safety of all. We want students and employees to feel comfortable and safe returning to school buildings.

To that end, when the 2020-2021 school year begins in Carmel Central School District, if we are allowed to reopen our buildings, in-person school will look much different than previous years due to new health and safety measures. We will follow guidelines regarding wearing facemasks and social distancing while in our schools and on our buses.

These measures and many other considerations are outlined in our Reopening Plan (attached and on our website at www.carmelschools.org). It is important to note that our plan focuses on academic instruction to enhance student performance and address learning loss. At the same time, we will also try our best to maintain a level of extracurricular programs, clubs, and athletics that are so important to the physical, mental, and social well-being of our students.

As we have seen, much of the information regarding the pandemic has evolved and changed over time. Similarly, this plan is a living document--subject to updates and changes as new information becomes available to us. It is intentionally flexible and represents the collective thought of school administrators, teachers, staff members, Board of Education members, and parents from all facets of our District. It is based upon guiding principles, current planning considerations and assumptions (see Appendix A), as well as recommendations and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov), the [New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\)](https://www.health.ny.gov) and the [New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](https://www.nysed.gov). In addition, we are awaiting guidance from Governor Cuomo, which is due next week.

The plan includes three instructional models: in-person teaching and learning; remote teaching and learning; and a hybrid model that blends both in-person and remote teaching and learning. Flexibility in the plan allows us to pivot quickly in the event we must move from one model to another.

We are also considering the possibility of a fully remote option for families that are uncomfortable sending their children back to school in the event that we begin the year in a hybrid model. While this is currently not a part of our hybrid model, we continue to explore ways that we may be able to provide this option within the confines of our budget and at our current staffing levels. Next week,

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we will provide a survey for parents to help us collect the data that we will need to further evaluate these options.

Once you've had a chance to review our plan, we welcome your questions. Questions may be submitted to <https://bit.ly/2WMNBnd>

We appreciate your patience and understanding during these extraordinary times as we continue to create a positive learning experience for our students. Thank you for continuing to support one another and our schools during this time.

Sincerely,



Eric M. Stark
Acting Superintendent of Schools

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