

**From:** [Maureen Donahue](#)  
**To:** [SaGurney, Pamela](#)  
**Subject:** District Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:31:53 AM

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Dear Southwestern Families:

I hope everyone is enjoying your summer and some time in the sun (when it is not raining). The opening of school is 6 weeks away from today and we want to provide you with some information for the reopening of school.

1. As of today we have not received formal guidance from NYSED (NY State Education Department) and NYSDOH (NY State Department of Health).
2. We are planning for a full in person opening of school Pre-K -12 for the 2021-22 school year. This means we will be back to in person instruction five days a week.
3. We have had many comments and requests regarding mask requirements. We must follow all NYSED and NYSDOH guidelines. Failure to follow those guidelines could result in a fine for the school, withholding of state aid money, and removal of the Superintendent by revoking their certification. As of today the CDC has issued new mask guidelines for schools. NYSED and NYSDOH have not put out guidelines for the fall re-opening of schools. They typically come out with more specific guidelines about two weeks after CDC puts out their information. We are monitoring the guidance closely.
4. Virtual/Remote learning will only be offered on a very limited basis. When we open up school five days a week in all three buildings we will need to have our staff engaged with students. If you require a remote/virtual option please contact the building principal for a meeting.
5. We anticipate holding some open forum meetings in person starting the week of August 16, 2021. Hopefully we will have more specific guidance.

Our hope is to return to a normal schedule but recognize this pandemic is not over and we still need to be as safe as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions. We appreciate your patience and support throughout this most challenging time.

Regards,

Mrs. Donahue

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