



ONEIDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE

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September 23, 2020

Dear Families,

On behalf of the Oneida City School District, we hope that the start of the school year has gone well for our students and families. We continue to receive guidance from state agencies and we recognize that this raises questions about potential impacts on students, families and our full community. We are committed to communicating information as it becomes available.

First full week of school

Over the course of the first full week of school, it has been wonderful to see our students in our buildings. We have truly missed interacting with them and teaching them.

COVID protocols

The first week has also provided us with much needed insight about how our protocols for those who have COVID symptoms, those who are quarantined by the DOH, and those who have been exposed to people with COVID symptoms. The school nurses and administrators have worked together and with parents to follow the procedures set forth by NYSDOH.

The district is also working with MCDOH and has two phone calls each week with MCDOH to remain current with any changes from the DOH. The district has been told that there will be additional guidance coming in the next week or two regarding protocols for symptomatic staff and students. As soon as the district receives the MCDOH updates, we will update our guidance documents.

Next steps

Our top priority for the first month of school is to have in person instruction begin and make sure that our procedures are working well and that we make adjustments as needed. As we move toward the end of the month, we will continue to review our instructional protocols and procedures to determine if we need to adjust anything. Additionally, we will begin to plan to add other opportunities for students to our building plans. It is our hope that we can slowly add after school events, in-person extra help, and outside groups using our facilities. Our building administrators will be working with teams to plan a systematic implementation of activities in an approach that progressively adds different activities over time. As activities are added, the plan will include an assessment of the implementation and opportunities to adjust as needed. Additionally, it is also our hope that the guidance documents from NYDOH and NYSED will change and adjust to allow more activities for our students. Please know that we will be assessing the situation over the next few weeks to determine what can be added to our programming for students.

Stay home if sick

We are urging all of our families to have their children stay home if they are sick. If you keep them home, please contact your child's teacher or counselor to arrange for work to be provided for students who are absent.

Oneida City School District remains committed to open and transparent communications to support our students during this time. Our priority is the safety and education of all of our students. As always, thank you for your patience, understanding and flexibility.

Sincerely,

Mary-Margaret Zehr
Superintendent