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July 29, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are happy to be planning for the 2020-21 school year. Despite the building closure caused by COVID-19, we were able to learn and grow as a district in meeting the needs of all our students. The start of this year will be unlike any other, however we are hopeful for an opportunity to have students back in the building, even if it may look a little different than past years. At the beginning of July, we started receiving guidance from the NYS Department of Health and NYS Department of Education. A reopening committee was formed that included Administrators, Teacher Representatives, School Related Professional Association Members, School Health Office Representative, Board of Education Members, and Student Services Team Representatives. Parent Input was gathered via an online survey. The district was required to prepare three scenarios for learning; in-person, hybrid and remote, then submit a plan to the New York State Department of Education by July 31st. The purpose of this letter is to notify parents of the availability of the [Panama Central School Reopening Plan](#) on our website and to attempt to highlight key pieces of information that will directly impact Panama Central School families.

At this time, we are planning to open with a Hybrid schedule that maintains appropriate social distancing and safety measures, unless otherwise advised by Governor Cuomo. He has announced that he will make his final decision regarding school openings by August 7th. After that date, we will be able to communicate more specific details regarding the start of the school year and student schedules. Below is a summary of the Hybrid Model that we plan to open with. This, along with the other scenarios for reopening can be found in the PCS Reopening Plan.

Hybrid Model Highlights

- Building at 75% In-Person Attendance
 - Elementary - 100% In-Person Attendance
 - High School - 50% In-Person Attendance
 - Elementary (grades K-6) split from 2 sections to 3 sections
 - High School (grades 7-12)
 - Student Group 1: In-Person A/B; Remote C/D
 - Student Group 2: In-Person C/D; Remote A/B

Social Distancing

Panama Central School is committed to the health and safety of all students and staff members and will follow all state guidelines. Specific measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic require social distancing, health screenings, and updated health office procedures to be followed for the start of the 2020-21 school year. These measures can be reviewed in detail in the PCS Reopening Plan. Instructional spaces have been adapted to provide greater social distancing using polycarbonate barriers and/or decreasing class sizes. Due to these adaptations, students will be allowed to remove their face coverings, if they choose to do so. If students need to move about the classroom or transition into the hallways or common areas, they will then be required to wear a face covering. Instructions on when students will need to wear a face covering will be provided to students by their classroom teacher.

Health Screenings

All students will be screened by a parent/guardian at home prior to boarding the bus/coming to school. A daily questionnaire using the Live Safe app on the students' school issued iPad will need to be completed by the students' parent/guardian. If a family has limited internet access, a paper-based checklist will be provided. Students will be required to present confirmation of completion of the digital or paper-based survey when they enter the building or they will be screened by the Health Office. Enclosed with this letter, you will find the CDC's [What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourselves and others](#). Please review this as a family to prepare for health screenings throughout the 2020-21 school year.

If the child presents with COVID-19 symptoms the parent/guardian must not send the child to school and is asked to contact the school nurse. If a child presents with COVID-19 symptoms while at school, they will be sent to the School Health Office. The School Nurse will complete a Health Screening to determine whether or not the child needs to be picked up by their parent/guardian.

2020-2021 School Year-Family Intent Survey

We are asking that all families complete the [Family Intent Survey](#) in order to assist with planning for reopening. The survey can be found on the PCS website and the PCS Facebook page.

Respectfully,



Bert Lictus, Superintendent