



December 11, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you know, six of our seven schools remain in the state-designated orange zone. New state guidance allows orange zone schools to reopen to hybrid learning as long as state requirements for testing are met. For the most recent state guidance on schools in orange or red focus zones, click here: [guidanceforschoolsinredandorangezones.pdf \(ny.gov\)](#).

We'd like to update all parents and guardians on a variety of topics. Parents/guardians of students in grades PreK-4 were sent an additional update earlier today.

### **Grades 5-12**

As we prepare to return to hybrid instruction at Center Street, Gardner Road, and Ridge Road on December 14, we also plan for the reopening of our grades 5-12 schools to hybrid instruction. Specific dates for Intermediate, Middle, and High School students to return to hybrid instruction are not yet set, but our plan is for the schools to reopen to hybrid instruction sometime in January with testing requirements in place.

### **State designations for schools**

Even as we plan for reopening, we must also be very mindful of the fact that our schools' status remains at the discretion of the governor. If at any time he changes the zone designation in our area, our plans will have to change to reflect any new changes. We ask that parents and guardians keep this in mind and continue to read and listen to our district updates sent via auto-email and auto-call.

### **Safety protocols**

We also remind parents and guardians of our safety protocols. We have revised the information on returning to school based on guidance from the state. Here is the link to the protocols: [Safety Protocols.pdf](#). For the state's tool kit for PreK-12 students, click here: [prek-gr12\\_toolkit.pdf \(ny.gov\)](#).

### **Screening survey**

As schools reopen in phases to hybrid learning, we will once again require parents/guardians to complete the screening survey on the days their children attend school. Our reminder emails for grades PreK-4 hybrid learning students are currently being sent. These emails for grades 5-12 will resume prior to these schools' reopening dates for hybrid instruction. If you cannot complete the survey online, we ask that you contact your school that day. Most importantly, if a child has any symptoms, please keep the child home and contact the school nurse for guidance and follow-up.

As we move toward the holiday and throughout the school break, we ask that you continue safety practices of avoiding gatherings and/or non-essential outings/contacts, wearing masks, maintaining safe distancing, and thorough and frequent hand washing. This way we all work together to keep our students, staff, and community safe.

### **COVID update**

We have added a COVID case update to our district website. Please note that the information on our site includes only those cases and direct contacts known to the district. It will be updated each Monday afternoon. Click here for the case update: [Covid Update](#)

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### **Athletics/Extra-Curricular**

Parents/guardians of students in grades 7-12 will be receiving an email from our athletic director on the status of interscholastic sports. We ask that parents remember that the status of our athletic program can change at a moment's notice based on the state's designation for schools, Section IV and league level determination on sports seasons, and the Governor's own decision to allow or not allow sports and/or extracurricular activities to occur.

### **Technology Support**

Our technology department has put together a list of resources for support of home devices as well as Internet and connectivity. Please click here for these resources: [Technical Support Services for Families](#).

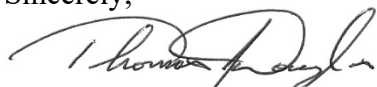
### **Schooltool Parent Portal app**

If you have updated your Schooltool app for the Parent Portal and cannot get back into the program, please enter this link: <https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com/sthhweb>. Make sure there are no blank spaces before or after the link.

Thank you for your continued cooperation as we work to provide both in-person and remote learning for students and a safe learning environment for our entire school community. We all look forward to the day we can return to full in-person learning.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact your school office.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools