



April 22, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On behalf of everyone in the district, thank you for your diligence, patience, and assistance as we transition to four days of in-person instruction. We are happy to be completing this first week, and we hope hybrid students are enjoying their time in school.

Continuing to be vigilant with safety protocols is as important now as when the pandemic began. We continue to have COVID-19 cases in our community, in our schools, and in our athletic program. When we learn of a positive test, we move swiftly through our protocols to protect the safety of our students and staff. We must all do our part to get through this pandemic.

If your child is not feeling well, do not send him/her to school. If your child or anyone in your home has undergone a test for COVID-19, your child must stay at home until a negative test result is officially received. These protocols have been in place all school year, and they are crucial if we are to keep moving forward. We have experienced instances where students have been sent to school with symptoms of COVID-19 or when awaiting a test result. Instances like these may result in disciplinary consequences.

We urge everyone to continue vigilance with safety protocols of masking, avoiding unnecessary gatherings/outings, and washing hands. And as community sports leagues begin, we remind everyone participating to follow safety protocols during practices and games. Again, this is critical for us to continue with in-person instruction.

Here is more information on other important items.

Staywell Health Survey for In-Person Students

The Staywell health surveys are an important part of our safety protocols allowing us to expand our in-person instruction to four days per week and move through this pandemic. Submitting the surveys each day your child is in-person at school is required. We thank everyone who has been submitting surveys and/or working through the process to get the reminder emails. It may be inconvenient, but if we are to maintain our in-person learning and athletics, we must keep our students and schools as safe as possible. Our schools will work with those families who do not have email or who are having issues with technology.

If you are not receiving the reminder emails, please try the following solutions:

- Check the spam/junk/clutter folders in your email. Sometimes the emails go there even if they were going to the inbox correctly before. You can also search your email folders for the sender [no-reply@gstboces.org](mailto:reply@gstboces.org) to locate the daily email.
- If you have more than one child in our schools and are receiving an email for one child but not for another, this is likely because your email is set up for what the email provider calls “conversation view.” The emails are probably connected, appearing as a single email. You can turn off this setting so it doesn’t happen in the future. To do so, go to Settings in your email and search for how to view your emails (e.g., conversation view or subject view) and either turn it off or change another viewing option. If you cannot find the Settings menu on an app, look for the three horizontal lines or three dots that signify a menu.

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Note that you can also access the survey without the reminder email. Go to <https://staywell.gstbooces.org/> and enter your child's login information. Your student should know his/her login information to assist with this.

We want to keep our in-person students in school; however, continued disregard for this important safety protocol will result in the student moving to remote instruction. We want to keep in-person students in school. Please, if you are having issues with submitting the survey, contact your school immediately.

Remote Students Requesting Hybrid

Our schools are currently assessing room capacity and safety requirements to determine if we can accommodate more in-person students. Schools will be contacting those parents/guardians who indicated on our March survey that they would like their remote students to move to in-person instruction with more information.

Calendar Revisions

The district's revised calendar with updated in-person days can be found here: [2020-21 School Calendar](#). Please note that Wednesday May 26 and June 2 will be in-person days due to holidays during those weeks. Please also note that the district has adjusted the calendar so that there will be **no school Tuesday, June 1**.

Middle and High School parents/guardians will be receiving more information regarding final exams for grades 7-12.

Board Meetings

Beginning with the April 21 meeting, our Board of Education is now meeting in person, following safety protocols. Meetings will be held in the High School Auditorium in order to allow space for appropriate physical distancing. Audience members are welcome. Note that safety protocols including masks, temperature check, health screening, and distancing are required. Meetings will continue to be live streamed and recorded. For more information on the Board of Education and meetings, click here: [HCSD Board of Education](#).

Vaccinations

New York State now allows anyone age 16 or older to receive vaccinations. If you would like more information on finding a vaccine site, visit the New York State site here: [COVID-19 Vaccine \(ny.gov\)](#) or the Chemung County site here: [COVID-19 Information Center \(chemungcountyny.gov\)](#).

We thank you for all you do. If you have questions, please contact your school office. Be well, and again, let's all continue to do our part to move through this pandemic.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools