

Ellenville Central School District

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Lisa A. Wiles
Superintendent of Schools

September 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health during this challenging time. This letter is to inform you of recent changes to the District's reopening plan. The most recent guidance from the Education Department states that schools should strive to provide an educational program that is thoughtfully and strategically designed, regardless if students are attending in-person or remotely.

On October 5th, we will transition to the hybrid model for students in grades K - 6. Students in grades 7 - 12 will remain on remote instruction until further notice. In order to ensure that our students have the most meaningful instructional experience possible, changes have been made to the K-6 hybrid model originally included in the District's reopening plan. Beginning October 5:

- **Wednesdays** will be remote days for **all** K-12 students.
 - Grades K-6 students will meet online as a full class (via Google Meet) with their teacher at a specific time during the school day. For other times of the day, students will complete asynchronous (not live) assignments, and have access to their teacher for individual support.
 - Grades 7-12 students will follow a modified schedule (online), providing flexibility to complete assignments and access their teachers for individual support.
- **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:**
 - K-6 students that are attending school in person will be dismissed at 12 PM. In the afternoons, they may participate in specials (physical education, art, library, music), complete assignments, or receive related services.
 - K-6 fully remote students will receive direct instruction with their teachers in the afternoon. In the mornings, they may participate in specials (physical education, art, library, music), complete assignments, or receive related services.
 - Grades 7 - 12 remain on remote instruction and follow their regular schedule.

We know that these changes will create many challenges. Please know that these were not easy decisions and were made only after observing the remote instruction, listening to our teachers and parents, and most importantly, to ensure that **all** of our students have the opportunity to engage directly with their teachers.

We understand the timing of these changes may create more challenges for our families, but every decision we make is made in an effort to best provide a safe and meaningful educational experience under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. The district is exploring the possibility of working with the YMCA to offer childcare, and will continue to seek out creative solutions to support you in any way we can.

In the coming days, you will receive additional guidance from your child's building principal regarding updated time schedules as a result of the above changes.

We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Wiles
Superintendent of Schools