



Superintendent's Column

We're rising to the challenge & ready for a great year of learning

I can't begin to tell you how delighted we are to see your children in-person soon. The last time we were personally in the company of our students was on Thursday, March 12, and we can't wait to see them again on the **first day of in-person instruction, which is Sept. 10 for Cohort B and Sept. 14 for Cohort A.**

As you know, we engaged with more than 150 of our employees, stakeholders and partners in the planning and implementation phases of our Reopening Guide. By mining the collective wisdom of our great people, we are prepared to reopen schools according to four priorities:

- Safety
- Equity
- Adaptability
- Full compliance with all State guidelines

The full Reopening Guide, as well as all of the supporting documents, can be found on our website (hamburgschools.org).

With that in mind, I wanted to offer the following operational details as we prepare for the beginning of instruction for all students:

✓ Whether students return in our in-person Hybrid model (about 89% of all students) or in our Fully Remote model (about 11% of all students), the initial emphasis will be on the social/emotional aspect of restoring each student's relationship with school. We know that each family's particular circumstances have impacted how each child has experienced the past several months, and we will help children work through that experience so that they are ready for a great year of learning and growth.

✓ For the students who return in person in our Hybrid model, we will place a significant emphasis on normalizing the important safety related behaviors that will now be required in the school setting while the health-related crisis continues. Everything from masking requirements and spacing during passing times, to school lunch service and using the restrooms will be reviewed with students.

✓ You and your children will notice an array of signs inside and outside of our buildings to help remind everyone



Michael Cornell
Superintendent

about social distancing, masks, hand hygiene and general movement in, and around, each of our schools.

✓ I know many of you live by the school calendar, as school events quickly become the center of activity for families. Under the current circumstances, please consider all large gatherings on each school calendar for September as "Postponed Until Further Notice." At the end of each month, we will decide about large gatherings on the next month's calendar and communicate that decision to all families so that you can plan. Please keep in mind that all decisions

about gatherings must be made in compliance with New York State Department of Education and New York State Department of Health guidelines.

✓ Please note that all schools will host a Virtual Open House this year.

The 2020-2021 school year will be challenging for all of us, but together, we will rise to the challenge so that our children have a positive school experience despite the difficult circumstances. If at any time you feel that we can assist you, or your child, please reach out to a teacher, a counselor or an administrator for help or information. It is in the truest sense of public service that we consider ourselves fortunate to work on behalf of the young people of the Hamburg Central School District.

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