



# GERMANTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL

123 MAIN STREET  
GERMANTOWN, NY 12526

August 12, 2021

Dear Germantown Central School District Community,

We hope this letter finds you resting and enjoying your summer break.

On August 10, superintendents and school leaders statewide received a [memo from New York State Education Department \(NYSED\) Commissioner Betty Rosa](#) explaining that NYSED is in the process of developing a guidance document for districts as we prepare for the 2021-22 school year. Although NYSED does not have jurisdiction over public health matters, they do possess oversight authority for schools.

As interpreted from the memo, it seems we can expect guidance consistent with or very similar to the [CDC's guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools](#), which would include universal indoor masking for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status, physical distancing of at least three feet and continued cleaning protocols just to name a few.

Districts are now awaiting official guidance from NYSED and the opportunity to review that guidance. We are sincerely appreciative of our community's patience and understanding. We know many of our community members have questions surrounding the return to school, as do we. We will ensure our community is informed when we receive guidance.

Although there are questions surrounding guidance, we are excited to get the 2021-22 school year started as we focus on student success. Our goal is to prepare all Germantown students to be college- and career-ready, to achieve their dreams and to succeed in life.

After a difficult year last year, we will be opening our building with complete in-person learning starting September 8, 2021. If your child is medically unable to attend in-person learning due to COVID-19, please reach out to me directly. We plan to have all our athletics programs running and available to students this school year as well as our drama and music programs unless COVID-19 drastically progresses for the worse or if NYSED guidance prevents this. We will focus on providing our students with supports in emotional, social and academic areas, and we have developed professional opportunities to support student growth and success across the district.

We believe that every child and adult should have a safe and purposeful environment to be successful. The Germantown Central School District's goals for the upcoming school year are:

1. ensure 100% of students who will begin their senior year in 2021-22 will graduate;
2. continue the implementation of the Positivity Project Pre-K through Grade 12 to support the emotional and social wellbeing of our students and staff;
3. utilize academic intervention programs in the areas of math and reading district-wide to assist with loss of learning due to COVID-19;
4. continue to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students, staff and community members; and
5. maintain open, transparent communications with the district's stakeholders.



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You may see or hear of some changes that are or will be occurring in the Germantown Central School District. These changes include completion of the Capital Project, fields and auditorium. These implemented changes are for the overall achievement of our children. Our work together from school to home will encourage and support the success of our children here in the Germantown community.

The Germantown Central School District has added a number of professionals to the Germantown community. We would like to officially announce the following professionals joining our team:

Heather Lincoln — Social Worker

Garrett Montgomery — English

Alison Wimmer — Physical Education

Heather Billington — Spanish

Heather Mabb — Reading Interventionist

Meaghan Jaeger — Science

Cheryl O'Dell — Math Interventionist

AnnMarie Johnson — ESOL

Liz Trachta — Special Education

Kylie Pudney — Teaching Assistant

Excitement fills the air at Germantown Central School District as we come back to full-time, in-person learning. We are looking forward to a successful year filled with achievement and growth.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Bragg  
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Cc: Board of Education