



Superintendent Announcement- 4/22/2021

Welcome Back, Middle School Students!

We are pleased to announce, based on newly released guidance from the CDC and the New York State Department of Health, that our **middle school students currently enrolled for in-person learning will be returning to school four days per week, effective Monday, May 3, 2021.** Every Wednesday, these students will continue to learn remotely because our transportation staff is needed for deliveries of materials. **Students in Grades 6-8 will report to school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.**

Please note that the District will be making the following change based on the new CDC and NYS DOH guidance:

Physical distancing for students in classrooms has been changed from 6 feet to 3 feet. We are confident that the majority of our classrooms will maintain a 6-foot distance at all times but, due to classroom size, a few may need to be reorganized to provide 4-5 feet of physical distancing during class time. This spacing will not impact student safety, as it still provides more distance than the approved guidance. When eating, students must remain 6 feet apart and this guidance will also be respected.

We would welcome the opportunity to return our high school students to in-person learning, however that is not possible at this time. While physical distancing requirements in the classroom have changed, the guidance for bussing capacity has not. Middle school students requiring transportation has put some of our buses at maximum capacity, so there is no space available to safely add high school students.

Our reopening team has been carefully planning for the return of our middle schoolers on May 3, 2021. However, we also value parent feedback regarding our plan and encourage parents/guardians to email feedback@nccscougar.org by Wednesday, April 28, 2021 should you need further information. As always, we are working with the Clinton County Health Department as we seek approval for our plan.

We feel that the return of our middle school students is an important part of the District's goal for a full reopening, for all grade levels, in September 2021. We are excited that our daily case numbers continue to go down, however we must remain disciplined and educated, as we are aware that COVID-19 still exists. We are hopeful that our middle school return will meet with the same success that we've achieved at our elementary schools. We caution that, as with elementary, new cases may result in cohort quarantining or a middle school pause, so we encourage families to have plans in place for these possibilities. We are excited about the return of our middle schoolers and the opportunity to begin closing the learning gaps experienced over the last year. We thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding during this challenging school year.