



September 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community,

The Northeastern Clinton CSD is looking forward to welcoming back our students for the 2020-2021 school year. I would like to recognize the contributions and efforts of our administration, instructional and support staff, and our healthcare providers. We have many talented, skilled, and dedicated professionals within our school system that have worked very hard over the last several months preparing for the reopening of our schools. We wouldn't be ready to educate our students on September 8, 2020 without their commitment to, and love for, the students and families we serve.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the start of the new school year. The school community is well aware that this year will look much different than in the past, but we believe that our students, parents, faculty and staff, and community will support each other to make this a successful school year. That's what we do in Cougar Country! Our district schools have rebuilt their educational models by designing programs and options that provide a safe, nurturing, and differentiated learning opportunity for our students.

The social and emotional well-being of our students is very important to our educational team. The first day will provide an opportunity for us to welcome back and support our students, whether they are participating in-person or remotely, as they adjust to the changes made necessary by COVID-19. Our priority will be to build trusting relationships between students, faculty and staff. We will provide a caring and loving environment first, and then we will teach the academics.

When school reopens, students and staff will wear masks, follow appropriate social distancing measures, and watch for signs of illness. Many new rules and procedures have been implemented by various New York State public health and education agencies to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. This is a critical time for our schools, communities, and society. We must constantly model and reinforce the attitudes and behavior we want our students to emulate. We must all set an example to protect each other.

Thank you for taking the time to read and understand all the school options over the last month regarding instructional models (in-person, remote, or homeschooling), transportation (parent or school transport), meal service (student brought or school offering), mask wearing (parent provided or school supplied), and health screening (home screening or at school). We appreciate your patience in making the best choice for your child's school experience until we get back to normal. In developing these choices, the District followed important guidelines and recommendations made from Governor Cuomo, the Centers for Disease Control, State Education Department, State Department of Health, and the Clinton County Health

Department. We ask our families to keep in mind that information and changes occur rapidly. As rules change, the Northeastern Clinton CSD will adjust and parents will be updated.

Please visit our website at www.nccscougar.org for announcements, updates, and our school reopening plan and video. As always, you can also call or email the office of the school building your child attends if you have additional questions. We feel that continued cooperation between school and home is key to the success of the reopening. In order for you to be kept informed, **it is more important than ever to be sure your contact information is updated and correct.** We are thankful and appreciate your ongoing patience, understanding, and willingness to collaborate with us as we walk this journey together. We're excited to see our students whether in-person or remotely, and are committed to ensuring the safety of our students, faculty and staff while keeping our focus on providing a quality education for all students. Together we can do amazing things, even through the most difficult times, that will allow our children and community to learn and grow. We remain, NCCS Strong!

Yours in Education,

Robb Garrand

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Superintendent of Schools