



Sachem Central School District

Christopher J. Pellettieri, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

November 13, 2020

Dear Sachem Family,

Unfortunately, we had four new COVID – 19 positive cases this past week: one at East HS, two at Hiawatha and one at Waverly Elementary School. Anyone that met the Suffolk County DOH definition of a close contact has been contacted and will need to quarantine.

Recently, I wrote to you about a rumor regarding schools possibly transitioning from in-person to distance learning due to an increase in COVID – 19 cases. I was asked if we were going to close around Thanksgiving and perhaps reopen in early January. I candidly replied to this speculation stating that it was something I had heard being talked about in some circles, but that I did not believe the current data necessitated any action at that time.

Since then the positivity rates have dramatically risen and we have seen a handful of districts around us begin to do just that, transition to distance learning. We also hear that the NYCDOE is preparing to close for in-person learning as early as Monday.

Obviously, the time has come to have this discussion and for our schools to be prepared for a transition to distance learning if forced to move in that direction either by Executive Order from the Governor or by the events around us. We will of course have this discussion in public with as much transparency as possible. I am placing this topic on the agenda for our next Board of Education meeting, which will be Wednesday, November 18th at 7:30 PM.

We want to keep our schools open for as long as possible for in-person learning as we see the benefits for our students in class with their peers and their teachers. That being said, as always, our concern for student and staff safety will guide our decision making. All students would remain on their current teacher rosters, including the new Remote Academy.

We ask that all remain vigilant in social distancing, mask wearing and respiratory hygiene protocols. Of course, we will continue to remain vigilant keeping our buildings safe, clean, and sanitized.

Please stay well.

Sincerely,

Chris Pellettieri

Dr. Christopher J. Pellettieri
Superintendent of Schools

51 School Street
Lake Ronkonkoma,
NY 11779
631.471.1336



#WeAreSachem