



# West Irondequoit Central School District

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February 11, 2021

Dear Families and Staff:

Visiting schools and chatting with people, I keep hearing how surprised and pleased everyone is about our reopening success. Given the circumstances, the safety and instructional rigor of our programming is 100% a reflection of you. Together, we continue to stand resolute in our commitment to our children and their success.

With the restart of higher-risk winter sports and sharp decrease in community COVID-19 positivity rates, many people are asking about a return to full in-person instruction. Having all students back full-time is an aspirational goal we all share – when and if it can happen safely. We are working with local and state officials to advocate for consideration if specific safety criteria are met. Staff must gain equitable access to vaccinations. School and community positivity rates must remain low or negligible. We must monitor transmission in schools to ensure that spread does not happen here. With these factors in place, in addition to the research-based safety precautions like masking and sanitization, I do believe that given time, "opening the valve" in schools can happen. When it does, safety will continue to be our priority.

## **2021-22 SCHOOL BUDGET**

The Board of Education and District began formally planning for next year's school budget in January with our regular Budget Workshop. We discussed the preliminary Tax Cap, which will be much less than 2% and less than last year. Working from the proposed 2021-22 Executive Budget, we remain guarded on State Aid projections as their proposed structure has changed along with flow through federal CARES Act monies included. This ambiguity, along with a proposed freeze in Foundation Aid (the primary categorical State Aid component), paints a bleak financial forecast for schools next year. The Board and District are committed to sustaining a comprehensive, supportive and safe learning environment for students and staff. We will be persistent in ensuring the efficient and well-planned use of financial resources. Please watch our website and social media for more information regarding the 2021-22 budget planning process.

## **NEW DISTRICT RECEPTIONIST**

Mrs. Adrinne Raines has been hired as the new Receptionist at District Office. She is married and the mother of three children, including two IHS students. Mrs. Raines has worked as an Attendance Clerk at Dake Junior High School the past two years. She is also a PTSA building representative. Mrs. Raines replaces Mrs. Susan Bottazzo, our longtime receptionist who served the District for 28 years. Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Raines.

## **ATHLETICS REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CHEERLEADING, FOOTBALL, VOLLEYBALL**

Our full restart of winter athletics included season openers this week for boys/girls basketball, ice hockey and wrestling is scheduled for Saturday. Our FamilyID registration is also now open ([CLICK HERE](#)) for the “Fall II” season, which includes cheerleading, football and volleyball. That season is scheduled to start March 1.

## **MUSIC UPDATE**

An email was sent to families on Wednesday, February 10 regarding evolving plans for the music program, including an invitation to a Zoom webinar with Mr. Zugelder on Tuesday, February 23 at 6 p.m. to learn more. Look for a reminder email on Monday, February 22.

## **COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE**

Since our last communication on Monday, Feb. 8, the Monroe County Department of Public Health reported 3 new cases in our District:

- One student at Listwood School
- One student at Dake Jr. High School
- One staff member at Rogers Middle School

The MCDPH’s contact tracing determined that these were the result of community spread with no close contacts happening in school. Per federal privacy laws, we can’t disclose any more details or personally identifiable information. Questions? Call the [MCDPH](#) Hotline at 753-5555 or email [COVID19@monroecounty.gov](mailto:COVID19@monroecounty.gov).

Our district has issued a total of 706 COVID-19 tests to students and staff in our schools since Jan. 14, 2021. This week there were 2 positive cases, which were isolated and reported to MCDPH.

For all COVID-related updates, please visit our [COVID-19 Information page](#). Our next COVID-19 case report is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 22. Thank you again for everything you’ve done to support a safe learning environment. Wishing you the best for a well-deserved February break.

In partnership,



Aaron R. Johnson, Ed. D  
Superintendent of Schools