



# Cornwall Central School District

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March 5, 2021

Dear CCSD Community,

During the February 22<sup>nd</sup> Board of Education meeting I shared an update regarding the planning that took place at the high school and middle school levels to prepare for the Second Semester Hybrid Model. This model includes a blend of five days of live instruction between regularly scheduled in-person days and live streaming period by period, on regularly scheduled remote days. This model began at CCHS on March 1<sup>st</sup> and will begin at CCMS on March 15<sup>th</sup>. At the time of the Board meeting we were not prepared to share impact planning for the elementary level, as that planning is still ongoing. Consistently this year we have piloted models in one building or level before rolling it out to the others, and we will continue to plan in that manner as it has proven successful. We then engaged in a conversation about a variety of options to be considered to increase the number of in-person instruction days in our district, and the current mandates and guidelines that we must adhere to. At the end of the meeting a request was made for an updated community survey to be sent out regarding increased in-person instruction. I agreed, it was sent out three days later, and the results were shared out today.

I am sharing all of this with you because over the last two weeks there has been a significant amount of genuine frustration expressed by our parents. Frustration during a pandemic is something we can all understand and support. That said, the actions of some who have chosen to negatively target our District via social media is very disheartening and is creating an unnecessary division. That is not good for anyone, especially our children, and that certainly is not what our District is about. To be clear, our kids and their success have always been our number one shared priority. Our disagreement revolves around how to accomplish increased in-person instruction in a safe and responsible manner.

After much research and collaboration with staff, area superintendents, and health officials, I feel that we are now prepared to communicate a timeline of information with you, as well as possible upcoming next steps to increase in-person instruction within our District. I would like to additionally share that we are indeed "*Striving for Excellence Every Day.*" This motto serves as a great reminder that excellence does not happen overnight, which especially holds true during a pandemic. Please know that we have always valued the importance of in-person instruction. This is why we were one of the very few districts that opened for in-person instruction starting in September, while so many others remained virtual for months. We will continue to plan thoughtfully and move our District forward piece by piece so that when we are done we know the plan is right and works for Cornwall. I encourage you to read the information below in its entirety so you have a firm first hand understanding of where we started this fall, where we are today, and where we are going in the weeks ahead.

Terry J. Dade  
Superintendent of Schools

### *CCSD Reopening Timeline and Next Steps*

- ~ **July 13** Reopening guidelines published by New York State Education Dept.
- ~ **July 14** Reopening survey sent to parents and staff  
*Would you send your child for in-person? 58% strongly agree/agree*  
(Orange County Positivity Rate - 1.2% 7 day average)
- ~ **Aug. 24** Letter to community announcing our inability to allow for 100% full remote instruction due to concerns with technology infrastructure  
*Is your family interested in full remote for your child(ren)? YES - 16%*
- ~ **Sept. 1-4** Use of 4 Superintendent's Conference Days to prepare for reopening
- ~ **Sept. 8** First Day of School (hybrid model begins)  
(Orange County Positivity Rate - 1.4% 7 day average)

### *Significant improvements made to CCSD technology infrastructure*

- ~**Nov. 2** Transition all CCMS Cohort C IEP students out of Educere to live streaming
- ~ **Nov. 23 to Dec. 7** Pause for in-person instruction  
(Orange County Positivity Rate - 7.9% 7 day average)
- ~ **Jan. 4-8** Pause for in-person instruction  
(Orange County Positivity Rate - 10.6% 7 day average)
- ~ **Jan. 11** Transition all CCMS Cohort C students out of Educere to live streaming
- ~ **Jan. 25** Transition all CCHS Cohort C students out of Educere to live streaming
- ~ **Jan. 27** Orange County approves high-risk sports; no change in guidelines for academics (Orange County Positivity Rate - 7.9% 7 day average)
- ~ **Feb. 25** Increased in-person instruction survey sent to parents
- ~ **March 1** CCHS transitions to 5 days of live instruction (streaming and in-person)
- ~ **March 15** CCMS transitions to 5 days of live instruction (streaming and in-person)
- ~ **March 29 - Apr. 5** Spring Break
- ~ **Apr. 12** **Tentative Phased Implementation of Full In-person Instruction\***  
**(medical remote students will be able to remain in full remote status)**
- ~ **Apr. 12** **Phase 1 - Elementary school students return for full in-person instruction\***

~ Apr. 13            **Begin analysis of elementary school full in-person instruction model in anticipation of a middle and high school transition to in-person to follow**

*\* All of the above phases are dependent upon community COVID-19 positivity rates, quarantine numbers at CCMS and CCHS, ability to transport students and ability to adhere to all of the established NYSDOH guidelines. Based on tentative phased implementation above, non-medical families requesting full remote live streaming may be considered at that time.*

**Ongoing:**

- ~Advocacy on a local and state level regarding COVID 19 overall educational impact
- ~SEL - Intimately supporting students, families and staff in need both socially and emotionally
- ~Food Distribution - Prepared and distributed over 41,000 meals this school year
- ~Analysis and updates to technology and infrastructure
- ~Collaboration with families for technological support at home
- ~Data analysis and action to support learning gaps
- ~Professional Development to support changing teaching and learning models, and technology integration
- ~Summer planning to support student educational progression