August 23, 2021

Dear Orchard Park CSD families,

We are excited to welcome our students back to our campuses this week as orientation, athletic, and music programs are all underway. We also hosted our new teacher orientation today and many teachers are setting up their classrooms - our buildings were energized with excitement!

From the onset of the pandemic, our goal has been to maximize in-person instruction for our children’s best interest. Therefore, we follow the safety recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the New York State Education Department (NYSED), and the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH). This has allowed us to implement a layered approach of mitigation strategies to ensure the health and safety of our school community.

Today, the ECDOH published new guidance and requirements for the start of the 2021-22 school year. To ensure the health and safety of the entire OPCSD community, beginning tomorrow, all students, staff, and visitors over the age of two (2) will be required to wear a face covering at all times while in district buildings, regardless of vaccination status. Face coverings are not required for students, staff, and visitors while outside of the building, where proper social distancing is maintained. Please note, per the ECDOH, that gaiters, bandanas, and clear face shields are not considered acceptable face coverings.

Information regarding additional protocols and requirements for the 2021-22 school year will be shared with the OPCSD community over the course of the next few weeks. We look forward to a safe and exciting start to the year as we welcome all of our students on September 8, 2021!

Dave Lilleck
Superintendent of Schools
Orchard Park CSD