August 5, 2021

Dear Orchard Park Families:

We received notice on August 4th that the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will NOT issue guidance to public school districts for the upcoming school year regarding COVID protocols. We had been informed throughout the summer that updated guidance and protocols would be coming to school districts from the NYSDOH. Like many school districts across the state, we were surprised by this last-minute change.

Earlier this afternoon, the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) released a statement to school districts that they were also just made aware that updated guidance from the NYSDOH would not be forthcoming. The ECDOH stated that additional information will be shared with school districts once their office of epidemiology and school team have completed reviewing existing school guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics, along with lessons that the ECDOH has learned throughout the pandemic.

Please know that over the next few weeks, as we continue to plan for the 2021-22 school year, we will work with our local health officials and review pertinent guidance in order to prepare a healthy and safe learning environment for students and faculty. We will communicate any updates as soon as they are available.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely

Dave Lilleck
Superintendent of Schools