

Frewsburg Central School District

26 Institute Street • P.O. Box 690 • Frewsburg, New York 14738

(716) 569-7041



September 29, 2020

Dear Families,

First, let me thank you for your support, patience, and understanding as we worked through our reopening plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Although it has certainly been a very different start to the year, with a few bumps in the road, overall I am very proud of the way our students, parents, and employees have transitioned to both in-person and remote learning. Now that we are approaching the month of October, I feel the need to communicate some points with you.

While this letter will mainly focus on in-person education, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our remote learners as they have also transitioned to a different mode of learning. Thank you for your grace and patience, as we continue to navigate “remote instruction” while providing in-person instruction. This is both new and challenging. We experienced a few hiccups early in the process; however, we have been able to work through these situations as they have come to our attention. Please do not hesitate to call 716-569-7069 if you need additional assistance with technology – devices, internet issues, etc. We stand ready to help you!

While we continue to follow our rigorous health and hygiene protocols in order to keep students and employees safe while they are on campus, we never know how long we will be able to continue with in-person learning. Here a few things that you should be aware of in order to prepare.

First, as you are aware, the symptoms of COVID-19 are the same as many other illnesses. This means that any time a teacher displays any symptoms, they are required to stay out of school, contact their medical provider, and provide documentation for return. So far, we have been able to accommodate such classrooms with substitutes but there may be a time when the absences outnumber our available subs. **If you haven't already, please be sure that you have a back-up plan for those times that we must move to remote instruction for the entire school due to a high number of teacher absences or a change in level of instruction.**

Secondly, school districts are required to report data daily to the [New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\) COVID-19 School District Report Card](#). This dashboard asks for enrollment numbers, how many students/employees we have referred to healthcare providers, how many have had a COVID test, and the number of COVID positive individuals. Information listed in this portal also directly links an address provided by a laboratory that submits a positive test result to the state department of health to the school district. The new “Lab Reported Positives based on Residential Address” number may not reflect how many Frewsburg Central School students have actually tested positive, nor does it necessarily represent positive results that have been made known to our district and confirmed by the Chautauqua County Department of Health. As the health and safety of our school community is our first priority, we would like to assure you

that the Frewsburg Central School District remains fully committed to transparency. **We will communicate with our entire school community any information we receive and confirm with the Chautauqua County Department of Health regarding positive cases.**

The next topic is snow days. The New York State Department of Education has provided districts with flexibility and has established a one-year pilot to enable school districts to pivot to remote instruction to provide continuity of instruction on what would otherwise be a day of school closure due to a snow emergency. **Please be aware that students and faculty may be staying home and accessing remote instruction on a snow day this year.**

Lastly, the district has not produced a calendar this year. We create this calendar in the summer and at that time, we were not even certain if we would be able to come back to in-person learning. Additionally, many of the events on our calendar will need to be creatively planned. Communication will occur from our buildings regarding upcoming events.

Thank you for keeping your child home if they exhibit any symptoms such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscles or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or if you have traveled to a state on the list requiring quarantining. We also encourage you to review the importance of maintaining social distancing and the importance of wearing a mask as directed by an adult while here in school.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We appreciate the partnership we have with our families and will continue to do our best to serve all of our students. Thank you for entrusting your children to our care.

Sincerely,

Shelly O'Boyle
Superintendent