

NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
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Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools

August 4, 2021

Dear Lumberjack Families,

We hope you are all enjoying your summer and time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming your child(ren) back to school in September.

We are looking forward to opening schools at full capacity this Fall and are currently staffing and preparing our buildings for full-time (5 days/week) in-person learning. That said, it is the beginning of August 2021 and we are still awaiting updated guidance from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) for operating schools in September. In absence of that guidance, we are doing what we can to prepare for some of the possible requirements that may be included in it.

We are anticipating the NYSDOH will institute universal masking for students and staff indoors at schools in September 2021. This assumption is based on already released guidance/statements from the:

Center for Disease Control (CDC): “Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant...CDC recommends **universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools**, regardless of vaccination status.”

NYSED Commissioner Betty Rosa: “**Masking for all individuals, and for all indoor events in all schools.**”

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): “**All students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school** (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use).”

Once guidance is released by the NYSDOH, we will re-evaluate our operating procedures for September 2021, including our masking policies.

While we will not be offering a remote option for students next school year unless we are required to by state agencies, we recognize that some medically/ immunocompromised students may need a remote learning option due to unique medical conditions.

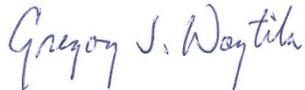
In preparation for this possibility, North Tonawanda is one of several school districts partnering with BOCES, who are offering an e-Academy remote learning option for K-12 students who are diagnosed by a physician as having a compromised immune system or comorbidity. Students enrolled in this remote school setting would be taught by BOCES’ teachers with other students from the area who also require this special accommodation. In order for BOCES to have staff in place, they need to know how many students might be eligible.

If your child has a physician-diagnosed compromised immune system or comorbidity, and your physician believes that your child's return to an in-person school setting could impact that condition, your child may be eligible to participate in the BOCES remote learning program.

Please note that a written diagnosis of the condition, a physician's signed note and contact information for that physician will be required. **Contact your building principal no later than Wednesday, August 11, 2021, to indicate your intention to enroll your child(ren) in the e-Academy program. You will be required to follow-up with the necessary written medical documentation.** After the written documentation is reviewed, you will be notified if your child is eligible.

Once the State's updated guidance for the Fall is released, our opening committees will review its implications for this Fall and update our plans. We will provide more information to our families as soon as we are able.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory J. Woytila". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent North Tonawanda City Schools

"Building the future today"