



DANSVILLE, NY

Important Notice: Please complete the attached commitment form, place it in the enclosed postage paid envelope and drop it in the mail.

August 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

Governor Cuomo has authorized the reopening of public schools and Dansville CSD has a strong plan for safely opening in September. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with important reopening information, share our commitment form and request that you complete it and return it in the mail promptly.

While we are thrilled to be welcoming students back to school in person, the opening of schools this year will be anything but “business as usual.” Daily health screenings at home and in school are essential. Mask expectations are strict and based upon recommendations from medical doctors. **The safety of students and employees is the priority.** Parents need to understand and accept how different in person learning will be before committing.

Options for learning. DCSD submitted our [reopening plan](#) to the State on July 31. The plan calls for a 2-1-2 hybrid in person learning model explained on the enclosed Summary of Changes. In this “2-1-2 hybrid” model, social distancing can be maintained because there are fewer students in each classroom, hallway, cafeteria and gymnasium. Students from the same household will attend on the same days.

Our plan also includes a complete remote learning option. The 100% remote option is an on-line model with a teacher. Students may use a Chromebook or iPad provided by the school or another device from home to interact with a teacher and complete their classwork.

Parents of 3PK-6 children were notified who their child’s teacher would be at the end of the school year. Regardless of which option you choose, please anticipate possible changes in class rosters and who your child’s teacher will be.

Commitment form. We need to confirm your intentions for your children in September. The enclosed form asks parents to tell us if children are returning to in person learning at school or if they



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will participate in an all remote learning program. If you prefer to home school instead of choosing either of these options, please tell us by sending an email to homeschool@dansvillecsd.org. We will connect you with our BOCES service that processes home school applications.

Transportation. We also need to know if students who are returning to in person learning require school bus transportation. Masks and social distancing on buses is mandatory. Members of the same household will sit together. Importantly, we are encouraging parents of children who typically ride a school bus to bring them to school and pick them up when possible. The more who bring children to school the better we can ensure enough space on school buses. Since fewer than 50% of children will attend school on any given day, we predict that traffic congestion will be minimal. You may choose your intentions for school bus service on the commitment form.

Achievement Lab and Activities Program at GCC. Parents of PK-6 children who choose the 2-1-2 model may also indicate if they will bring their children to our Achievement Lab and Activities Program at GCC (if available) on days when they are not attending school in person. We are currently planning this program and at this time we are hopeful that we can deliver this opportunity to children in grades PK - 6 Mondays through Fridays. Our tentative plan is to operate during school hours, maintain children in cohorts and ensure social distancing in vacant classrooms, the gymnasium and auditorium at GCC. We are also planning for an on-site administrator and a nurse. Parents will be responsible for dropping off and picking up each day. Mask expectations will be the same as in school.

Before committing it is important for you to understand how our schools will operate in September. Please review the enclosed summary of required changes brought about by new State guidelines. **Your urgent response is needed by Monday, August 17.** We request that you **complete the attached commitment form** and if appropriate complete the enclosed free and reduced price lunch form. Place the form(s) in the enclosed stamped envelope and **drop them in the mail right away.** Please call my office or your child's principal with any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Alioto

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR SEPTEMBER

In person 2-1-2 model. In this model students in grades 3PK through 12 will be split into two cohorts. Students in cohort A will attend full days of school in person on Mondays and Tuesdays and participate remotely on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Students in cohort B will attend school in person on Thursdays and Fridays and participate remotely on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. In this “2-1-2 hybrid” model, social distancing can be maintained because there are fewer students in each classroom, hallway, cafeteria and gymnasium. Students from the same household will attend on the same days. We will determine who is in each cohort once commitment forms are returned during the week of 8/17.

The first day of in person learning will be Thursday, September 10 for Cohort B students. Cohort A students will begin in-person learning on Monday, September 14.

Face Coverings & Social Distancing. Students and staff will maintain 6 feet of social distancing from others and, except where rare medical exclusions apply, wear face coverings at all times in school and on school buses. According to pediatricians, “With very few medical exceptions, children over 2 can be taught to wear these for extended periods of time.” Class walks outside of the school building for play and outdoor lessons will permit students to take frequent mask breaks.

Daily Health Screening at Home. Parents are expected to conduct a home health screening everyday before they leave for school and 7-days a week for each child. It is very important to conduct the health check even on non-attendance days to assist with contact tracing in the event a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19. This is a public health matter and parent participation is essential.

The District has purchased an app that parents can download onto their smartphones, other personal device or access from their child’s Chromebook or iPad. Parents will use the app to report the screening results. The District will make the app available before the start of school.

Health Screening at School. The District will staff entrances with employees trained to conduct a health screening as students walk through our doors each day. In addition, teachers and aides will be trained to conduct health screenings. Children whose parents did not submit evidence of a screening will be screened by the school nurse or another trained employee. This is required under State guidance. In addition, the District may conduct temperature checks at entrances and in classrooms.

Suspected Illnesses. DCS nurses, administrators or other trained personnel will isolate and dismiss any student or staff member who has a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 that are not explained by a chronic health condition for follow up with a health care provider. A parent whose child is symptomatic will be contacted and must immediately respond to the school to receive the child. A medical clearance will be required prior to readmitting the child.

Response to Positive COVID-19 Case. In the event that a student or an employee tests positive for COVID-19, the District will immediately work with the Livingston County Department of Health to conduct contact tracing, mitigate additional contacts and exposures, notify the parents of children who may have come into contact with the positive case and make decisions about quarantine of certain students and/or adults, a classroom, grade level or school closures. Deep cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas will ensue.

COVID 19 Testing. DCSD will comply with CDC guidance and not conduct COVID-19 testing of students or staff members. The decision of whether a test needs to be conducted should be determined by a healthcare provider or the local department of health. DCSD nurses will refer staff members or students and their parents to health care professionals when COVID symptoms are evident. School nurses will also coordinate with the Livingston County Department of Health.

Contact Tracing. Contact tracing is a public health function performed by the Livingston County Department of Health. DCSD will assist LCDOH in knowing who may have had contact at school with a confirmed case by:

- ❖ keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members;
- ❖ ensuring student schedules are up to date;
- ❖ keeping a log of any visitors which includes date, time and where in the school they visited; and
- ❖ assisting LCDOH in tracing all contacts of the individual at school.

DCSD recognizes that confidentiality must be maintained as required by federal and state laws and regulations. DCSD staff will not try to determine who is to be excluded from school based on contact without guidance and direction from the LCDOH.