



# ONEIDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## DISTRICT OFFICE

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August 7, 2020

Dear Families,

Today, Governor Cuomo shared on his conference call that school districts can open using the guidance that was provided from the New York State Department of Education and the New York State Department of Health. Based on this information, the District will start our school year with a hybrid model. The District's top priorities are the safety and well-being of our school community and to deliver high quality to instruction to all of our students. Our reopening plan and a presentation about our plan can be found at: [https://oneidacsd.org/c\\_o\\_v\\_i\\_d-19/reopening\\_plan-ocsd](https://oneidacsd.org/c_o_v_i_d-19/reopening_plan-ocsd)

### **Communication and feedback**

There will be three virtual events for parents and staff to get additional information and ask questions. We will be offering three information sessions on **Wednesday, August 19 at 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM** for parents and staff to learn more about our plan and have an opportunity to ask questions. The sessions will be conducted via Google Meet. A link for the meetings will be placed on our website on Wednesday, August 19. During the information sessions we will discuss health/safety and the instructional aspects of our plan. Additionally, Eric Faisst, Director of Public Health at the Madison County Department of Health, will be joining us.

We know that our plan is a living document and we expect that it will change with feedback and new guidance. We ask that our families and staff participate in a Thoughtexchange about our plan to give us needed feedback to adjust and revise our plan. The Thoughtexchange can be found at: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/758790723> We continue to read and respond to parent thoughts on the Thoughtexchange.

### **Parent/guardian options**

Parents/guardians will have the following options:

1. An option to have your child learn remotely every day. This will be done as an online form or on a paper form and will be sent to you next week.
2. An option to have your child change their group assignment (Last name A-K and last name L-Z). This will be done as an online form or on a paper form and will be sent to you next week.

As a reminder, families who reside in the same house and have different last names will be grouped together. Individual buildings will be working with families to arrange this.

### **Instructional Schedule**

The district will start our school year with a hybrid model. We will revisit this in the first few weeks of school to determine if we can have all students return to in-person instruction. During Governor Cuomo's conference today, he stated that if the metrics change the decision to open schools may change.

#### **HYBRID schedule for students in grades PreK-12**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Last Name, A-K</b>	In person at school	In person at school	Virtual/remote	Virtual/remote	Virtual/remote
<b>Last Name, L-Z</b>	Virtual/remote	Virtual/remote	Virtual/remote	In person at school	In person at school
<b>Prioritized students (students with special needs, English as New Language Learners, etc.)</b>	In person at school				

Prioritized students will be determined at the building level and parents will be contacted by administrators to discuss their student's status.

**Additional work**

There is still more work that each of our administrators need to do to have our buildings and staff ready to start the school year. Each administrator is creating building specific procedures that outline how the school will implement our plan specifications such as drop off and pick up procedures, student schedule specifics, and iLearning guidelines. Additionally, our transportation and food service departments will be finalizing plans once we know how many students will be opting for virtual instruction.

Oneida City School District remains committed to open and transparent communications to support our students during this time. Our priority is the safety and education of all of our students. As always, thank you for your patience, understanding and flexibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary-Margaret Zehr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Mary-Margaret Zehr  
Superintendent