



WALLENPAUPACK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 12, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Wallenpaupack Area School District will be resuming in-person instruction on Tuesday, January 19th. We will also provide remote learning for those families who would prefer continuing in the remote learning model. On January 7th, 2021 the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Health updated guidance to school districts as to recommendations for instructional models based on community levels of transmission. In short, the guidance recommended that school districts allow elementary school students to participate in face to face instruction even while counties are in the substantial category. In addition, it is recommended that schools take into consideration, and if possible, allow in-person instruction for students who are unable to access their full education via remote learning, such as our Career and Technical Education (CTE) students and our special needs students.

I would like to thank our staff and students for keeping the District abreast of those who tested positive for Covid 19 over the last several weeks. Compared to our circumstances prior to the Holiday Break, we have significantly less faculty, staff, and students reporting that they have tested positive, or have been a close contact of someone who tested positive for Covid. It will continue to be our goal to provide students and families with the learning model of their choice, while ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for in-person instruction.

As we resume navigating through the school year, it will be our intent to limit district-wide closures of in-person instruction. Instead, we are going to work with our data daily to ensure that schools can be open safely for our staff and students. If our data supports the need for closure, due to Covid-positive tests within our District or lack of staffing, we will identify, isolate, and move to remote learning for only those buildings, grade levels, or classes. This will hopefully limit the number of disruptions to the educational process and provide an improved continuity of education for our students. However, in an effort to keep our schools open, it is quite possible that closure will come suddenly, with little warning. It is with this in mind, that we ask families to have a plan in place should your child be moved to remote learning.

Happy New Year! May 2021 bring wellness and success to you and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith E. Gunuskey", written over a white background.

Keith E. Gunuskey, Pandemic Coordinator
Assistant Superintendent