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Dear Westhill Central School District Students and Families,

I hope you are having a terrific summer with family and friends. We are just about one month away from the start of the 2021-2022 school year and we have been busy working to ensure a successful opening of schools. The safety and health of our students and staff remains our number one priority.

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 7th. We are planning on a full reopening of in-person instruction five days a week for ALL students in grades K-12. Only students who have applied and been approved for a medical exemption will receive remote instruction through BOCES for the entirety of the 2021-2022 school year. Signed physician statements for medical exemptions are due to the Superintendent's Office no later than August 24, 2021.

Last week we learned that New York State will not be issuing guidance to govern the opening of schools next month. Westhill CSD is following the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) guidelines](#) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines](#) as the basis for preparation and planning. Our plan will include the following criteria:

- Require masks for ALL students and staff, vaccinated and unvaccinated, while indoors and on buses.
- Social distancing in classrooms, cafeterias and other shared spaces in our buildings.
- Utilize important mitigation measures, including testing, contact tracing in combination with quarantining and isolation as needed, asking people to stay home when sick, and cleaning and disinfecting of our facilities.
- Families should assess their children each morning for COVID-19 symptoms before sending them to school each day, including temperature checks when appropriate.

If you have not done so already, we strongly encourage all eligible students, staff and community members to get vaccinated as soon as possible. COVID-19 vaccination appointments are available through [Onondaga County](#).

We will continue to update you with any pertinent information tied to the start of the school year. Thank you for your continued support of our students and staff, and for doing your part to help keep all members of the Westhill community safe and healthy.

Continued Success,

Stephen Dunham
Superintendent of Schools