

Canastota Central School District

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District Office

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Superintendent of Schools

October 15, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I hope that you are doing well and are successfully navigating through this extremely unusual school year. I understand that operating in the hybrid instructional schedule has been challenging for everyone involved, including students, parents and staff members. We intentionally employed a conservative approach as we entered into the new school year, wanting to make sure that we had a handle on our ability to safely transport and educate our students in accordance with the guidelines established by the CDC and the New York State Department of Health. As we head into the second half of October, we are pleased to see that our plan has worked well and we have avoided any sustained interruption to instruction.

During the summer, I indicated that our ultimate goal was to allow for students to return to school on a five day/week schedule when we could do so in a safe and orderly environment. Our definition of "safe" includes the following:

- Strict adherence to recommended social distancing standards
- Daily health screening protocols, including completion of screening form and temperature checks
- Wearing of masks throughout school facilities
- Frequent and thorough cleaning and disinfecting protocols

After a tremendous amount of analysis and review of our cohort group sizes, facility capacity and ability to maintain strict safety protocols, **I am pleased to inform you that Peterboro Street (grades K-1) and South Side Elementary (grades 2-3) schools are scheduled to reopen for a five day/week schedule for all students currently enrolled in our hybrid instructional model (cohorts 1 and 2) beginning Monday, October 26th.** Students currently enrolled in the fully-remote cohort will remain remote for at least the remainder of the semester (through the end of January). Additionally, Pre-K students will continue to attend 2 days/week; their schedule will not change. The final Raider Wednesday for PSES and SSES will take place on Wednesday, October 21st, after which a normal weekly schedule will resume.

After additional evaluation of the Roberts Street Elementary program, **we have determined that students in grades 4-6 currently participating in the hybrid instructional model (cohorts 1 and 2) will return to a five day/week schedule on Monday, November 16th,** which is also the beginning of the second marking period. As is the case with both PSES and SSES, RSES students on a fully-remote schedule will remain on that schedule until at least the end of the first semester (end of January). The final Raider Wednesday for RSES will take place on Wednesday, November 4th (Wednesday, November 11th is Veteran's Day). A normal weekly schedule will resume the week of November 16th.

We will be working with our staff over the coming weeks to make sure that our K-6 transition back to a five day/week schedule will be as smooth as possible. We appreciate the tremendous support we have received from our families, and look forward to continuing our partnership with you to ensure the best possible experience for your child. Additional information will be coming out from each building as the date of the return to 5 day in-school instruction approaches. Please contact any one of our building principals if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Shawn Bissetta
Superintendent of Schools