



AVOCA

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Central School District

Stephen Saxton, Superintendent
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July 31, 2020

Dear Avoca families:

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. This is certainly not the summer any of us envisioned several months ago, but I hope you are still finding ways to relax. I know what's happening with our schools is on all of our minds, so I wanted to update you on where we are with our reopening plan.

During the week of Aug. 3-7, Governor Cuomo is expected to make a decision about whether schools will reopen in September. In preparation for this possibility, New York required all school districts to propose a plan that includes models for in-person instruction, fully-virtual instruction and a hybrid of in-person and virtual instruction, with each following the [NYS Department of Health Guidelines](#), [NYSED Guidelines for Reopening](#), and [Guidance from the CDC](#).

The state's deadline for submitting reopening plans was today, Friday, July 31, but we— like many other districts in the region—were granted an extension for submission. Our intent is to post the plan on our website by Friday, August 7.

We're developing our re-entry plan with careful consideration, adherence to guidelines and the goal of returning students and staff to a safe learning environment.

Feedback from our families and staff members was critical to our plan development. To get that input, we opened a ThoughtExchange at the end of the last school year and also shared a survey with families. The results of that survey can be found on our website. Expect another survey in the near future that will help us fine-tune our plan so that we can all be ready for instruction to begin in September, whether it is in-person, virtual or a hybrid of both.

The instructional models we're considering have challenges and benefits depending on your children's and family's needs. Developing the different instructional plans has proven to be a complex balancing act that involves many moving parts including, but not limited to, health guidelines; parent, student and staff concerns; protocols for masks and health screenings; and physical space limitations.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to define what the 2020-21 school year will look like. We know there are no perfect options here. The 2020-21 school year will be far from "normal." But please know, we will do our best to make sure that all of our students receive the high-quality education they deserve, in a safe and welcoming environment.

We will continue to share information on our website as new developments arise and more specifics are available, and you will continue to hear directly from me as we move closer to September. Please do not

hesitate to reach out to me, your child's building principal or their school counselor if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen C. Saxton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen C. Saxton
Superintendent of Schools
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