



AVOCA

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Central School District

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August 24, 2020

Avoca 2020-21 School Year to Begin Sept. 10

Last week, GST BOCES modified their 2020-21 school year calendar, and because Avoca Central School District, among others, follows their calendar year we've made changes to our district wide calendar. Students' first day of school will now be Thursday, Sept. 10. We are also moving most of our Superintendent Conference Days to the beginning of September to provide staff with professional development opportunities in preparation for the Hybrid Learning Model.

Starting school on September 10 now allows each team, Maroon and Gold, to have one day of school during the first week of the 2020-21 school year. It also allows Avoca students who attend BOCES Special Education, CTE, and Alternative Education placements to be on the same schedule as the rest of the student body on our school campus.

District staff have spent the past several weeks setting up classrooms, and alternate spaces, in a socially distanced manner to ensure the school buildings can accommodate the students and staff for the start of the new school year.

When students return to school on Sept. 10, they'll be adhering to the district's Hybrid Learning Model. See below for details about the instructional model.

The Hybrid Learning Model

- In-person learning will be held two days each week for all students
- Students have been divided into two teams (maroon and gold); half of the student body is on campus each day
- Students who have been placed on the maroon team will attend school in-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Students who have been placed on the gold team will attend school in-person on Wednesdays and Fridays
- All siblings will be on the same team, regardless of grade level
- Extended school day, to build in an "advisory period" at the end of the day to prepare for asynchronous virtual learning and meal collection for the remote day, is moving the end of the school day to 3:15 p.m.
- Students are required to wear face coverings on buses and while moving about the classroom when six feet of social distancing can not be maintained

- All students will participate in remote learning Mondays, where first period via Google Meet will be dedicated to attendance followed by students working independently on assignments
- Teachers will be available via email or the Remind App if additional support is needed
- Monday will be a collaboration and planning day for teachers
- Counselors will check-in with students, and virtual college visits/virtual career information sessions would be scheduled for Mondays. Some therapy sessions will also occur on Mondays. Teachers will be available for office hours to help clarify assignments or answer any questions
- Committee on Special Education (CSE meetings) will be scheduled on Mondays

We are looking forward to seeing our students and to kicking off the new school year. Please remember to check our website often for news and updates about the 2020-21 school year.

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 Saxton
Superintendent