

Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District

Mrs. Andrea L. Galenski
Superintendent of Schools
(716) 891-6402



Board of Education
Denise McCowan - President
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August 23, 2021

Dear Cheektowaga-Sloan Families and School Community,

I am writing to inform all of our families and community that today, we received Guidance from the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) regarding the upcoming 2021-2022 school year for PreK-12 Schools. I felt it was most important to communicate as quickly as possible one of the biggest decisions that was made today which will impact our students, staff, families and our entire school community.

The ECDOH announced today that it is requiring indoor masking for all individuals age 2 years and older, including students, teachers, staff, bus drivers, bus aides, vendors, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. Appropriate masks must be worn at all times in all classroom and non-classroom settings, including but not limited to hallways, school offices, restrooms, gyms, locker rooms, auditoriums, etc. Students may remove their mask during meals as long as they sit 3 feet apart, to the extent possible. Acceptable masks must be two layers of materials and may be cloth-based or surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. Bandanas, gators, and clear face shields are not considered acceptable face coverings.

It is our obligation to uphold this mandate and all other mandates set forth by the ECDOH. As a result, masks must be worn at all times when in our school buildings. We appreciate all students, staff and families working with us as a team to ensure that the health and safety of everyone in our school community is our number one priority as we continue to navigate a pandemic together.

Beginning this week, many of our students will be participating in orientations as a way of meeting their teachers and familiarizing themselves with our school buildings. This is the perfect opportunity for me to share that given this decision regarding masks today, this will apply to our orientations as well. Masks are required for all students, staff and families who will be participating in orientations this week and all school related events that are quickly approaching.

I also wanted to share that we are in the process of putting together specific information that will be helpful for everyone to know and follow. We will be prepared to share this information in the coming days. We have included important items such as mask breaks, disinfecting protocols, physical distancing, health monitoring, buses, definition of close contacts, reporting procedures

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Our mission is to provide a positive academic and social learning environment that fosters independence, responsibility, life-long learning and student success.

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for all positive COVID-19 cases, and other relevant information as it relates to the health and safety of our school community.

Now that the ECDOH Guidance was provided today, we are so excited to be able to move forward and make the final necessary preparations so that we can successfully and safely welcome all students and staff back to five days per week of full-time instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and positivity.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Galenski
Superintendent of Schools