



## *Skaneateles Central School District*

*Nationally Recognized for Excellence  
45 East Elizabeth Street  
Skaneateles, New York 13152*

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Superintendent of Schools  
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February 23, 2021

Dear Skaneateles family,

While we have been very fortunate to be able to provide full-time, in person learning for all of our students in grades K-7, that experience was not possible for our older students. Over the past several weeks, there have been exciting developments in our region that are moving us closer to providing full-time, in-person instruction for grades 8-12 as well. The Onondaga County Health Department recently changed the criteria for determining who is placed into quarantine, giving us greater discretion and, potentially, the ability to reduce the number of students, faculty, and staff sent out of school as a result of exposure.

Additionally, there is tremendous political pressure to amend the 6-foot social distance requirement in schools which is the crux of our physical space limitations and, ultimately, our inability to educate all of our students at once in grades 8-12. While no official decision has yet been made, the proposed change would reduce the 6-foot social distance requirement to 3 feet. For schools, this is the difference between hybrid schedules and a return to a normal 5-day school schedule for our children.

While these are certainly encouraging developments, there is still so much to navigate. We will continue to share information and seek the input of our school community as restrictions begin to lift. There are a great deal of rules and regulations that must be amended before any of this becomes a reality, but we already have a plan in place to open our doors and welcome all of our students in grades 8-12 back as soon as we are permitted to do so. Remote learning will continue to be available for any families who choose this option.

Please take some time in the coming days to talk about what a return to full-time school will look like for your children. We are well aware of the emotional toll this has taken on our students and families and we recognize the need for a thoughtful and supportive transition back to a normal schedule.

Thank you for your continued partnership in navigating the challenges of this school year.

Stronger together,

**Eric Knuth**  
Superintendent of Schools

Skaneateles High School  
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