

September 7, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

A few reminders as we eagerly await the arrival of our students tomorrow:

1. **Buses on the road** – Please be mindful of this and be sure to stop when the red lights are flashing. Keeping our students and staff safe is our very highest priority and we need everyone's help in doing so.
2. **Bus ventilation** – With chilly mornings upon us, please be sure that your child has a jacket or outer layer to wear on the bus as windows and vents will be open to maximize ventilation.
3. **Masks** – Must be worn at all times on the school bus and inside our buildings except when eating and drinking and during mask breaks.
4. **Positive Cases and Contact Tracing** – Please be sure to contact us at [covidreport@bscsd.org](mailto:covidreport@bscsd.org) as soon as possible after you or your child has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or if your child has been identified by Saratoga County Public Health as needing to be in quarantine through contact tracing. As positive cases and quarantines will likely be a part of our reality for at least the near future, we will all need to continue to adapt as needed so as to keep instruction as consistent as possible for our students.
5. **Communication** – As there will be ongoing changes and challenges both in our schools and in homes this year, please continue to connect early and often with your child's teacher and principal with immediate issues so that they can be resolved as quickly as possible.
6. **Vigilance** – Please be sure that your children are practicing handwashing, cough/sneeze etiquette (into the closed elbow), and wearing a mask properly (pinched over the nose) so that we can keep students and staff as healthy as possible as we go through the year.

Finally, as I have said in prior updates, I know well that the issues surrounding the management of the COVID-19 virus have divided us in a variety of different ways, particularly when it comes to masking. My final ask prior to starting our school year is that these differences not be placed in the laps of our bus drivers, teachers, staff, or principals. They are working very hard to keep your children and our staff safe while also ensuring that we can maximize in-person learning time. They will need all of their attention and energy to devote to this in the year ahead. I regret to have to say this, but should a student not follow the directions of the bus driver, teacher, staff, or administrator and not wear a mask while inside our schools, we will contact you regarding the disciplinary action that will be taken under our Code of Conduct. I truly hope that we have no such situations this year and I thank you in advance for your cooperation with this request.

We are genuinely excited to have our students back in our hallways and in our classrooms this week! Should you have any questions about this information, please do not hesitate to contact us at [schoolopenings@bscsd.org](mailto:schoolopenings@bscsd.org).

Thanks to you all for working together to get us to this point!

Ken Slentz  
Superintendent of Schools  
Ballston Spa CSD