

Saranac Central School District

PO Box 8, Saranac, New York 12981 Tel. (518) 565-5600 ~ Fax (518) 565-5617

November 24, 2020

Good Afternoon,

As we head into this Thanksgiving Holiday, I wanted to offer some thanks and updates. I want to start by saying that I am so very proud of this entire school community. Together we have accomplished things that were thought of as impossible at the beginning of this journey. We have a long journey in front of us, but I am confident that together we will continue to rally for our kids.

UPDATES

1. There are currently no plans to move the school district into a fully remote plan. I plan to continue evaluate the data and make decisions based on it. As I have been very open about this all along things can change very quickly. Also, if we were to have a positive case in the district, I would work with the Health Department to decide what areas of the district I would have to close temporarily. I would not plan on a full district closing unless the situation called for it.
2. Bandanas and gators will no longer be accepted as appropriate face coverings. If any student needs a mask, we can provide a mask for them.
3. I am currently working on the process of becoming a COVID-19 testing site. The reason I am doing this is if we become designated as a yellow zone, we would have to test 20% of our students and staff weekly for at least 2 weeks to remain open. I want to be clear I have not decided that we would become a testing site, I am only exploring if this would even be a possibility. Currently if we were designated a yellow zone we would have to immediately move to full remote instruction until we were testing or out of the yellow zone designation. If the decision were made to move in this direction, I would send out a survey to see if I would have enough volunteers to test and remain open for in-person instruction. I also want to note that the rapid test that would be required is a much less intrusive exam as it is a shallow nasal swab.
4. We have been provided the option to utilize remote days in the event of a snow day this year. I have decided that for now we will continue to utilize our snow days as we have in the past. I think there is some additional planning that will be required to utilize those days as remote days for example meals, and planning for students who do not have devices just to mention a couple of reasons. If we get this planning in place it is something, I will consider but for now there will be no change with this process.

HOW WE STAY OPEN

1. It is critically important that families continue to follow the guidance from our health officials. We must be vigilant about mask wearing when in public and social distancing.

2. Thanksgiving comes to us this year with some added risk. The recommendation is to have our celebrations with only those who reside in our homes. It is also recommended that we do not travel for our celebrations this year. What I would ask is that we follow this guidance and if for some reason we cannot that the proper steps are taken to ensure others safety like quarantining and other measures.
3. The travel restrictions are very specific, and it is important that they are followed if your family is planning to travel during the holiday especially. We will work with those students that need to quarantine due to traveling.
4. The bottom line is if we can remain healthy within our school community than we can remain open utilizing our hybrid plan for instruction. Obviously, there are circumstances that are out of my control that could also send us to full remote instruction.

As I stated before I am very proud of the work we have done thus far and I am confident that we can work together to continue to provide the best learning environment for our students under these circumstances.

WHAT I AM THANKFUL FOR THIS THANKSGIVING

I am thankful for...

- My family.
- My health and that of my family.
- The time I get to spend with my family.
- The privilege of being School Superintendent to such a wonderful community.
- The team of incredible teachers, staff, and administration that I am blessed to work with every day.

On behalf of the entire Saranac Central School team I would like to wish each and every family a wonderful Thanksgiving. I hope you find yourself and your family healthy and safe this Thanksgiving! I also hope you get the opportunity to enjoy some time with those that mean the most to all of us.

As always please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Javier Perez

Saranac Central School Superintendent

jperez@saranac.org