



## **Spencer-Van Etten Central School District**

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Diahann Hesler  
Superintendent of Schools

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Parents and Guardians,

In order to ensure the safety of our staff and students when we reopened school in September, the administrative team spent countless hours on our reopening plan, which included looking at parent and staff input, following mandates, collaborating with local schools, measuring classrooms for social distancing, among other tasks. We created a plan that we felt would work best to reopen our district, split our in-person students into two cohorts, Alpha and Omega, as well as offer the distance learning option. Included in our plan was a reassessment after reopening to see how and when we could bring all kids back, which took place in the beginning of October.

At that time, the Department of Health strongly advised the district to pause our efforts to bring all students back due to the increase of cases in our surrounding counties. Shortly after that discussion, COVID popped up in our community and we began tracing positive COVID cases at S-VE schools. Largely due to our protocols in place, feedback we've received from the Department of Health has indicated that the spread of COVID is due to outside of school activities.

Currently, the administrative team has resumed planning for the return of all students, with input from our staff, to create the most workable plan. We know we will need to keep a distance learning component for families with medical concerns and those quarantined, we know students will need to be masked through the majority of their day with increased numbers at school, we know we need to continue to support our educators with teaching both our in-person learners, as well as our distance learners, and we know each parent has a different comfort level around COVID.

We understand the hardship COVID has posed on our students, teachers and families and certainly want to do what's best for all. We want students in school daily, we want our students connected, and we want to figure out a way to live with COVID. We will be communicating our plan with any needed adjustments to safely protocols soon.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving and be safe,

*Diahann Hesler*

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