



John G. Borden Middle School, 109 Bona Ventura Avenue, Wallkill, NY 12589

(845) 895-7175, Fax: (845) 895-8036

Nicholas Pantaleone, Principal

Michael Pritts, Dean of Students

August 23, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021 – 2022 academic school year. I hope this letter finds you and your family well and enjoying the last few weeks of summer. As previously shared in Mr. Castle's Thursday, August 19, 2021, letter, we are excited for our students to attend in-person learning five (5) days a week beginning on the first day of school, Wednesday, September 8, 2021! Since we are offering five days of in-person learning, remote learning (live streaming) will not be offered.

As always, our primary concern is the safety of our students and staff. To date, there has been no transmission of the Covid-19 virus taking place within our schools. To continue this trend the following Covid-19 mitigation strategies will be implemented as we continue to follow the safety guidelines outlined in the Wallkill Central School District 2021 School Opening Plan.

- Students and staff will be required to use masks, indoors, on school property (including school buses)
- Masks will not be required for outdoor events/activities
- Social distancing (3 feet) to the greatest extent practicable
- All members of our learning community will continue to complete, and present upon entry, the [Wallkill Central School District - COVID-19 Daily Survey \(neric.org\)](https://www.neric.org/wallkill-central-school-district-covid-19-daily-survey)
- Students/Staff may display their completed attestation form from their personal devices (phones,) Chromebooks, or a paper copy
- Our faculty and staff will continue to increase the frequency and duration of mask breaks while in the classrooms
- One-way hallways are eliminated
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces
- Opportunities for frequent handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer will be afforded to each student and staff throughout the school day
- Lunch will be held in the cafeteria with students using individual desks
- Students will transition to each of their respective classes while continuing to be physically distanced to the greatest extent possible (3 feet) when indoors
- Lockers and the use of the locker room will be permitted but limited throughout the school day
- Sports, after school activities along with the 4:00 pm late bus, will take place during the academic school year and the mitigation strategies will be implemented where appropriate

The Covid-19 mitigation strategies, listed above, are aligned with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the local health departments.

Please note our Health and Safety and Instructional Plans are subject to change based on any new guidance we may receive from the (CDC), (AAP), the local health departments, New York State Education Department (NYSED) or New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH.)

Most importantly, the Covid-19 mitigation strategies listed above afford our students the ability to:

- *Receive instruction from our wonderful teachers 5 days a week*
- *Take part in diverse extra-curricular offerings*
- *Take advantage of our free breakfast and lunch program*
- *Spend time with their peers in a safe learning environment*
- *Receive the support of our tremendous staff every day*
- *Be an active participant of our building wide PBIS program*

I look forward to a great opening of school and a successful school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

*Nicholas P. Pantaleone
Principal*