

Hartford Central School

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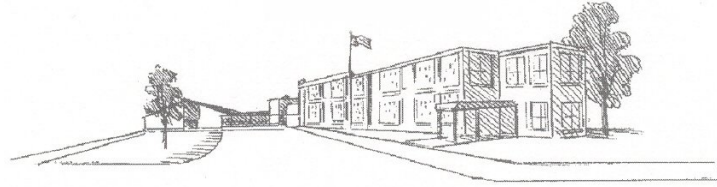
Ronald Smith

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www.hartfordcsd.org



"Hartford Central School, a community of educators, students, parents, and friends, dedicates itself to developing citizens who are productive and compassionate, and who, through their creativity and responsibility, will be assets to the greater community."

Andrew Cook
Superintendent
632-5931

Shelley Dupuis
Middle School/
High School Principal
632-5923

Bethellen Mannix
Elementary Principal/
Special Education
Chairperson
632-5222

Joann Searles
District Treasurer
632-5931

November 17, 2020

To All Parents / Guardians:

Over the past several months, the Hartford school community has cooperatively worked together to support a safe return to a hybrid model of in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. By taking extraordinary steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission within our district, we are thrilled that we have been able to maintain our model of instruction to this point, and are excited to continue have students in the building on a daily basis.

While the infection rate in Washington County remains relatively low, the infection rate across New York State is expanding, and the CDC and DOH are projecting an increase in community transmissions due to the holiday season. As part of Executive Order 202.68, Governor Cuomo introduced a "Cluster Action Initiative" which classifies regions, based on infection rates as yellow, orange, or red. If designated, each color requires enhanced public health restrictions, which include limits on non-essential gatherings, houses of worship, restaurants and taverns, gyms and fitness centers, personal care services, and schools.

If a school is located in an area identified as an orange or red zone, those districts are required to transition to a fully remote learning environment. Although yellow zones do allow for schools to remain open, those schools in yellow areas must conduct random weekly COVID-19 tests on 20% of the population (*students, faculty and staff*). While we will work with the Washington County Department of Health and explore all options in order to continue to follow our stated model of instruction, it is important to note that in the event the Hartford CSD is in a yellow zone, it is likely that the district would not have the resources to comply with the testing requirements and we would be forced to transition to fully remote instruction.

As a district, we understand how important it is for students to be in school. In-person instruction is not only beneficial to our students' academic and social development, but also provides our parents/guardians and family members the opportunity to work without the added burden of securing daily childcare. The community of Hartford has dedicated a great deal of time, energy, and resources to allow the district to operate on our current model and I could not be more proud of the work that has been done to this point.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the district at 518-632-5222.

Sincerely,

Andrew Cook
Superintendent
Hartford Central School District