



# Sachem Central School District

*Christopher J. Pellettieri, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools*

November 25, 2020

Good evening all,

I want to start out by thanking each and every member of the Sachem Family for helping us to get to where we are today. We arrived at the Thanksgiving break and have much to be thankful for. I would like to personally thank the many of you I have met either in person or via email for such a warm welcome to the Sachem Family.

Now a few updates:

## **Mask Coverings:**

As we work to keep our schools open for in person learning as long as possible, we are asking for your cooperation in regards to a change in our face covering policy. Masks are proven to be a barrier to help prevent the spread of COVID 19. The Center for Disease Control has recently updated their recommendation in regards to neck gaiters and masks with exhalation valves or vents. Both allow air to be exhaled through the vent or the fabric. This can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others and increase the spread of the COVID – 19 virus. As a result of this updated recommendation from the CDC and the spike in positive COVID cases in Suffolk County, as of Tuesday , December 1, 2020 we will no longer allow neck gaiters or masks with vents as face coverings in our school buildings. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and understanding as we work together to keep all of us safe. If you do not have a regular mask available, we will initially provide masks at schools to those who need them. We ask for you to provide your child's own mask as of Monday December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **Secondary Report Cards:**

Parents please note Secondary student report cards are now published in the Parent Portal. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher.

## **ICT Student Return:**

Our ICT students are on target to join us for full time in person instruction on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's school building principal or administration. Desk shields for students are either in place in those classrooms or will be in place by the 30<sup>th</sup>. If this changes in anyway we will be in contact with you.

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#WeAreSachem

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## **Recent Positive COVID – 19 Cases:**

Unfortunately, we continue to have positive COVID – 19 cases throughout our buildings. As you might imagine this is almost inevitable. Since Monday we had one case at each of the following schools: Chippewa, East, Sagamore, Nokomis, and Seneca. Any close contacts in these cases have been notified and are beginning to quarantine. We have had multiple cases however at Samoset Middle School and North High School which we are currently investigating and discussing with the Suffolk County Department of Health. If there are additional developments, we will of course reach out to you over the break.

Over the coming break please remember the decisions that impact your immediate family also impact the larger Sachem Family. Personally, I am not having Grandma and Grandpa over for Thanksgiving this year because I want to make sure they are celebrating Thanksgiving with us for the next 10 to 20 years. Please be sure to continue to follow social distancing guidelines such as practicing good hygiene, washing hands often, not touching your face and wearing a mask when out amongst others.

I do wish all of you a Healthy and Happy Thanksgiving!

Warmly,

*Chris Pellettieri*

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