



Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District

District Office



639 County Route 22 • Parish, NY 13131



(315) 625-5250



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www.apwschools.org

7/21/20

Dear APW Family,

As we plan for the upcoming school year, we are staying informed of the latest announcements regarding reopening. On July 8th, Governor Cuomo stated that he would announce by August 7th whether schools would reopen in-person. Preliminary state guidance was released on July 13th with additional guidance sent to districts on July 16th. Guidance documents will be made available on the new Reopening tab of our APW website. This tab will include information from the Department of Health, the New York State Education Department, APW announcements regarding reopening, our Reopening Plan (coming soon), and important updates regarding athletics, in addition to other key communications about reopening.

Over the last six weeks, the District's Reopening Task Force, comprised of approximately sixty consistent members, has met weekly to outline questions surrounding reopening, review CDC guidance and several state plans, and collaborate to develop recommendations for the APW Reopening Plan. This plan must be posted to our APW website and approved by the New York State Department of Education by July 31st. To gain a broader perspective, we have sent out surveys to parents and guardians, as well as to faculty and staff. If you have not completed the survey, there's still time. Please share your voice; click [here for Parents/Guardians](#).





I would like to publicly recognize the work the faculty and staff did to transition from in-person to online learning essentially overnight back in March. Teachers moved classrooms online and the Remote Learning Dashboard was developed to provide continuity of learning throughout the closure. However, as a mom of 6 (with 5 still in grades 4-12) and a middle school teacher for eleven years, I understand the parent and educator perspectives. It was difficult to motivate, provide support, keep track of assignments and ensure learning was actually taking place. While some children thrive in a self-paced, online environment, others are more successful in a face-to-face setting. Please know that as we develop our Reopening Plan, we are taking into consideration the variety of learning styles and student needs.

Finally, I must thank everyone else who has been working hard to ensure our students are ready to return. First, thanks to the Board of Education for their support of student learning, representing the community, and for being approachable and available. Our maintenance and buildings and grounds staff pour their hearts into keeping our campus beautiful and extremely clean. Our transportation department has been busy getting buses ready to transport your children safely. Staff in food service have been putting meals together for our summer nutrition program. The clerical staff have been busy registering students, responding to questions, and



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coordinating communication between departments. Administrators have been working on plans and schedules, professional development opportunities, applying for grants, running summer programming, etc. It's been a busy summer already! But these halls aren't the same without our students, and we miss them.

As plans continue to develop, we will keep you all informed of the latest updates. Remember to visit our APW Reopening tab for more information. Enjoy the summer with your families. We look forward to new opportunities in 2020-2021, our new Superintendent Ms. Lynn Rhone joining us, and working collectively to provide a positive learning experience for all students.

Proud to be a Rebel,

Naomi Ryfun

Dr. Naomi Ryfun
Interim Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Personnel Services