



PLAINEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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Friday, July 31, 2020

Dear Plainedge Families,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer with family and friends and that everyone is safe and healthy. To write that this has been the busiest and most surreal summer would be a vast understatement. Our 2019-2020 school year has officially ended with the last of our moving up and graduation ceremonies on Wednesday, July 29, 2020. We were able to celebrate our fifth and eighth graders moving up in our beautiful stadium. The week culminated with a High School graduation like never before at The Town of Oyster Bay (TOB) Beach where our entire senior class and their families could celebrate this important milestone. Thank you TOB Supervisor Joseph Saladino and Andrew Rothstein, Supervisor of Special Operations, and their entire team for making this special graduation evening a reality!

For many of us, this summer has been filled with copious meetings focusing on our planned reopening with a special task force and subcommittees, as well as a plethora of innovative thinking and community wide teamwork. Please know that we are working around the clock with our focus on making sure we are ready to safely reopen in September. As required by the New York State Education Department, we have created our plans for safely reopening our schools. This plan is fluid and will continue to be a work in progress right up until our anticipated start date of September 1, 2020.

As we enter the month of August, words cannot express the appreciation for the work that has been done these last two months, and will continue to occur, to prepare for the safe reopening of our schools in September. As you know, Governor Cuomo is scheduled to notify schools on August 7, 2020 regarding his decision related to the reopening of schools in September. Please know that the Plainedge Public Schools is prepared to modify our plans (as necessary) to keep our schools and our community safe and to adapt to future changes that may be required. The truth is that our Reopening Task Force and sub-committees made up of central office and building administrators, Board of Education members, teachers, custodians, clerical, aides and monitors, food service and transportation staff members as well as parents, have come together and worked diligently and collaboratively throughout the entire summer to make sure that Plainedge is prepared to reopen schools in the healthiest and safest way possible. Their deep commitment, concern, and passion to get these plans "right" comes through in every conversation and in every meeting. Their talents, professional skills, positive attitudes, and creative approaches to all the challenges and details of the situation are inspiring. I would be remiss if I did not say how thankful I am to all of our Unit Presidents and their representatives who without hesitation gave up personal time over the summer with their families and friends to actively participate in our reopening planning. Additionally, I would like to thank our Board of Education for their tireless commitment and unwavering support of our efforts to safely reopen our schools. I have never been more honored to be part of the Plainedge Public School Team.

Please take time to read through our Reopening Plans ([2020 Reopening Plainedge Schools](#)), which is posted on our Plainedge Public Schools website.

Reopening Plan Link: <https://bit.ly/PlainedgeReopening>

It is important to understand that this is a “live plan” that will undergo changes, revisions and updates as we move closer to the start of school and as more guidance from the various agencies (Governor’s Office, NYSED, NYDOH and the CDC) becomes available. There is no doubt that many of you will have questions. We will continue to communicate and post any changes and send surveys to our school community so that we can best meet every family’s needs as we move forward to safely reopen our schools. We know that all of our scenarios require strong partnerships between staff, students, and families. The District will continue to monitor the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and we encourage you to review this [LINK](#) to their page entitled, *The Importance of Reopening America’s Schools this Fall*.

As we all deal with this *new world* that has become part of all aspects of our daily lives, now more than ever we need to work together, to stay together in ways that benefit all Plainedge Families and members of our school community. We can and will continue to do so many wonderful things for kids and families each and every day regardless of how those days will look in the very near future.

Staying strong and safe together.

Warmest Regards,

Edward A. Salina, Jr., Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools

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