

December 11, 2020

Dear Summit Academy Parents and Caregivers,

In my last letter to you on December 3, I indicated that Summit Academy would continue with virtual instruction through January 11. Developments within the past week, including updated guidance from the NYS Education Department on December 4 and progress on testing, have caused us to change that timetable. **We will resume our hybrid model of instruction on Monday, January 4, 2021 according to your child's existing hybrid schedule.**

Our school nurses will test staff and students with consent during school hours on January 4 and 5. You will be notified of the test results on the day the test is administered. We will administer the BiNax (short swab) nasal test to a random sample of staff and students. While in the orange zone, we will be required to test 20% of our in-person staff and students over a one-month period. We will provide additional information about the testing process next week.

Many of you have reached out to us over the past week and we agree with you: learning is best achieved in-person. We are working very hard to get our students back in school. One way you can help is by returning the Covid-19 Testing Consent Form. As of today, less than half of parents have returned them. [The form is available on our website.](#) If you have not done so already, please print it out, sign, and return it to us at 150 Stahl Road, Getzville, NY 14068.

NYSED's most recent guidance has indicated that *your child may attend school in-person even if you do not consent to testing.* That being said, we would like our student test pool to be as large as possible so we don't have to test the same students multiple times.

Please keep in mind that when we resume in-person instruction, all previous caveats still apply. Any positive cases of Covid-19 among our students and staff will cause impacted classrooms to move to virtual instruction for the necessary quarantine period. Classrooms may also move to virtual instruction due to unforeseen staffing shortages which may happen with short notice.

We ask you to make sure you have childcare in place to prepare for this possibility.

Please continue to do your part to slow the spread of Covid-19 in our community by wearing a mask, maintaining social distance, and washing your hands.

We will continue to keep you informed and appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,



Susan Whittaker, Ed.D, SBL  
Summit Academy Principal