



SUMMIT ACADEMY
150 Stahl Road, Getzville, New York 14068 • (716) 629-3400 • FAX (716) 629-3497

August 27, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are excited to be re-opening in two weeks. Our first day for students will be a virtual day on Wednesday, September 9. Please look forward to contact from one of our team members to begin setting up virtual opportunities and/or introductions. As always, we continue to be guided in our re-opening, by the Governor's Office, NYS Department of Health, NYS Department of Education and the CDC.

Thank you to those of you who have been able to participate and/or watch our series of Parent Webinars. They are all available on our Summit web page at <https://www.thesummitcenter.org/reopeningplan/>. Also, included on this page is Summit Academy's Re-opening plan. I strongly urge you to review these plans.

This letter shares important information including health specifics, parent pick-up and drop off, bus transportation and overall details for a successful reopening. We continue to receive the parent surveys, that were included in our previous parent mailing, with your preferences for virtual or cohort services as well as parent or bus transportation requests. If you have not notified us, please do so as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition back to school. Please feel free to call your child's Unit Director to share this important information.

Summit Academy has organized three plans to begin the school year:

- Cohort A will be attending in-person on Monday and Tuesday, with virtual services on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Cohort B will be attending in-person on Thursday and Friday, with virtual services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Virtual Services are offered 5 days per week, with NO in-person services.

At this time, we are **NOT** honoring any requests to change cohorts as many specifics have been considered in developing these cohorts, with the most important... the health and safety of your child and the staff available to provide support. If you are requesting a change, please submit your request in writing directly to swhittaker@thesummitcenter.org. As we begin our school year and assess each classroom, we will be better able to determine individual requests and possible changes, accordingly. There are many unknowns as we begin our year, as we have not seen our students, in person, for nearly 6 months. Until then, we ask that you are patient with us as we safely place 325 students. Teachers have informed ALL parents regarding their child's cohort. **IF YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR CHILD'S COHORT, PLEASE CALL YOUR UNIT DIRECTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Important Health and Safety Facts you should know:

- Screening questions and temperature checks are conducted for both staff and students entering our buildings on a daily basis. All staff and/or students with a temperature of **100 degrees and above** will not be permitted at school. Any person who fails the prescreening (as attached) is not permitted at school.
- Summit will require staff and students to wear face coverings. **Please note that research has been conducted regarding gaiter/tube masks. They have been found to be ineffective, if not worse than no**

mask; therefore, we ask that your child learns to tolerate an alternative mask choice. Summit will not require a student to wear a mask if their pediatrician documents a valid medical condition that would prevent the use of a mask. **THIS WILL REQUIRE A DOCTOR'S NOTE BEFORE ENTERING THE SCHOOL.** Mask breaks will be offered throughout the day.

- Frequent lessons in handwashing, mask tolerance, social distancing and tolerating temperature checks will be implemented in all daily schedules.

Important Behavior Management Facts you should know:

- Summit continues with the tiered model of support in order to ensure appropriate service levels are secured and communicated to parents and districts:
 - Tier One Support: students are able to follow the Classroom Management Plans throughout the day and are not in need of an Individual Behavior Plan.
 - Tier Two Support: students may have an Individual Behavior Plan to decrease challenging behaviors that occur throughout the day. Support is increased.
 - Tier Three Support: students require an Individual Behavior Plan to support consistent and frequent challenging behaviors that may impact safety to themselves, peers and staff. Tier Three support is the highest level of support that Summit Academy offers. Parent and District involvement is mandatory at this level.
- Within this tiered model, behavior management strategies will be offered using a levelled system 1-4. Our main concern is to ensure safety in our buildings as we re-open. We will be asking for parent and district support for students requiring frequent level 4 support with the possibility of moving to an all virtual learning platform.

Related Service (SLP, OT, PT) Important Facts you should know:

- As your child acclimates back into in-person programming, therapists will be setting up virtual services with you:
 - Your child's therapist/s will contact you to set up virtual sessions on your child's scheduled virtual days, within your home. We are hopeful that you will take advantage of these sessions.
 - After close monitoring of classroom activities and virtual home services, your child's therapists will connect with the teacher to set up possible virtual therapy sessions within the classroom.

Please find attached important transportation information for your child. This document outline the specifics regarding bussing and parent drop-off and pick-up. Please note, that the car signs that we are enclosing **ONLY** go into the windshield during drop-off and pick-up. It is an obstruction to your view to keep them up permanently. We have included a plastic sleeve to better maintain these signs.

Thank you for your continued trust in Summit as we work together to deliver services and support to students and families. Please feel free to contact your Unit Director if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Susan Whittaker

Susan Whittaker, Ed.D., SBL
Principal, Summit Academy