



SUMMIT ACADEMY

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April 16, 2021

Dear Summit Academy Parents and Caregivers,

We are carefully monitoring and very concerned about the extremely high transmission rate of Covid-19 in our community. During Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz's briefing on Tuesday, he shared data indicating that children from birth to age 17 accounted for a significant number of new cases. In addition, Erie County has had 356 new cases per 100,000 people in the past seven days; anything over 100 new cases per 100,000 within a week is considered a "high" rate of transmission. In Niagara County, there have been 331 new cases per 100,000 people in the past week.

This information is an important factor as we continue to carefully plan a gradual return to five days per week of in-person instruction for all of our students. This week, nine classrooms moved to four days per week of in-person instruction. We are excited about this progress and proceeding with caution as we move additional classrooms to four-days per week later this month. This phased grade level-by-grade level return is happening in accordance with all New York State and CDC guidance.

Please continue to plan for the possibility of a move to virtual instruction on short notice. The health and safety of your child and our staff is our primary concern especially in light of the recent uptick in positive COVID-19 cases in Erie County.

To make life a little easier, Summit will host a vaccine clinic for our staff and students (18 and older) on Friday, May 7. Teachers have reached out to parents with details about this opportunity. As you know, the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against COVID-19, is to get vaccinated.

We have carefully reviewed the guidance from NYSDOH issued on April 9. At this time, we are unable to relax social distancing from 6' to 3' in our classrooms due to the inability of the majority of our students to wear masks for the full day AND maintain social distance. Our staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear masks at all times in adherence with the guidelines.

In other news, Summit Academy's 2021-22 calendar is now available. You may review it [here](#). Please note that for the 2021-22 school year, virtual services will be provided in the event of any emergency closing day – this includes our traditional snow days.

As a final reminder, PLEASE keep your child home if they aren't feeling well. While common, cough and fever may be signs of Covid-19. For additional information about Covid-19 in children and teens, [click here](#).

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

Sincerely,

Susan Whittaker, Ed.D, SBL
Summit Academy Principal