



SUMMIT ACADEMY

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April 30, 2021

Dear Summit Academy Parents and Caregivers,

Prom season is here and plans at Summit Academy are underway. Although we will not host a formal event, our prom committee has several ideas in the works. We will celebrate prom during school hours the week of June 7 with activities in classrooms each day. Students will celebrate with a variety of activities including dance parties, group games, personal pizza party lunch in the classroom, and more. This will lead up to our graduates taking home a “prom in a box” at the end of the week (June 11) that will include some of the activity ideas and materials from the week at school. We are all very excited to share this special time with our students – we know how much they look forward to this Summit tradition.

I’m very pleased to report that all our preschool integrated classrooms are back to five days per week of in-person instruction. As these classrooms integrate with Discovery Kids, additional space was secured so that we could safely distance students! Thank you to Discovery Kids for their flexibility. In addition, 10 school age classrooms have moved to four-days per week of in-person instruction, with two additional classrooms beginning four-days per week on May 10. Increased in-person days for other classrooms will be determined as we move through the grade levels, keeping in mind everyone’s health and safety.

Although the number of positive Covid-19 cases is starting to decline, the transmission rate in Erie County remains “extremely high.” Schools are following a transmission rate metric established by the Centers for Disease Control: anything more than 100 new cases per 100,000 within a week is considered a “high” rate of transmission. Over the past week Erie County has averaged 311 new confirmed cases per day which far exceeds the threshold.

Beginning next week, we will resume Lockdown Drills. Per our Safety Plan, we will proceed in the same manner prior to the pandemic. However, students will not enter closets or other confined spaces during these drills. Instead they will be instructed to quietly sit on the floor near their individual work areas. We will send a notification home on the day these drills occur.

Thank you to those of you who have had your child vaccinated against Covid-19. Please share your child’s vaccination record with our school nurses so that we have a record of it. This information is also helpful in the event of a positive case of Covid-19. Students who are vaccinated will be not be required to quarantine unless they are showing symptoms of Covid-19.

As a reminder, all children, ages 16 and up, are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is free. Walk-in appointments are available at many locations. [Vaccinehound.org](https://www.vaccinehound.org) provides appointment availability at local government, healthcare, and pharmacy locations throughout Western New York.

As we approach the month of May, please mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 12, which is a half-day and Monday, May 31, the Memorial Day holiday.

We greatly appreciate the support you provide to your children – and your very kind words about our faculty and staff. We take great pride in our work and knowing that we're making a difference for your child gives us tremendous satisfaction. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Susan*

Susan Whittaker, Ed.D, SBL  
Summit Academy Principal