



SUMMIT ACADEMY

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May 7, 2021

Dear Summit Academy Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you to those of you who have had your child vaccinated against Covid-19. As you may have heard, the Pfizer vaccine, currently approved for use for ages 16 and up, will soon be approved for children ages 12-15. I encourage you to get your child vaccinated when the opportunity is available. In addition to providing protection against Covid-19, students who are vaccinated will not be required to quarantine after exposure to Covid-19 unless they are showing symptoms.

Although the number of positive Covid-19 cases is starting to decline, the transmission rate in Erie County remains “very 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. For the week ending May 1, Erie County averaged 183.8 new cases per 100,000 which exceeds the threshold.

Like other agencies and industries, in addition to the on-going issues associated with Covid-19, we are facing challenges related to recruitment and staff retention. This is a top priority for us as we work toward offering five-days per week of in-person instruction. As a parent you, more than anyone, understand the kind of person we want working with your child in our classrooms, in our respite programs, and in your home. If you know of someone who might be a good fit at Summit, please encourage them to apply on Summit’s website:

<https://www.thesummitcenter.org/careers>

On Tuesday, May 4, we practiced Lockdown Drills at Summit Central and Creekside which went very smoothly. This was the first of four drills that we are required to conduct each year. Lockdown Drills are one of the components of our Emergency Preparedness Plan which has been designed under the guidance of state education requirements, local law enforcement, and the Town of Amherst emergency management officials.

A few calendar notes: Wednesday, May 12, is a half-day and Monday, May 31, is the Memorial Day holiday. Summit’s 2021 Autism Walk Virtual Challenge is happening May 15 and 16. I hope you’ll consider supporting this event which provides critical funds for Summit. You can learn more about the event here: <https://thesummitcenter.rallybound.org/summitwalk>

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Susan

Susan Whittaker, Ed.D, SBL
Summit Academy Principal