



SUMMIT ACADEMY

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

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December 15, 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last week, we were very happy to meet with many of you in-person for Parent Teacher conferences. This was the first time we have offered in-person meetings since the beginning of the pandemic, and it was great to have you back in our buildings! As you know, a positive partnership between school and home is essential to your child's academic success. If you have any feedback about these conferences, please email me at [mbennett@thesummitcenter.org](mailto:mbennett@thesummitcenter.org)

On November 2, all Academy staff members participated in staff development activities. Several of our therapists attended webinars specific to topics and practices in their respective fields. All Academy staff members attended a presentation on promoting staff and student safety in classrooms. Additional topics included discussion of the essential elements of a Summit classroom, leadership, and working with multiple students. Given our current staffing situation, many of these presentations were designed to help us maintain a high-quality program while dealing with a new staffing reality.

I also want to let you know that The Summit Center has formed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee comprised of staff members from various programs and administrative departments. Their individual experiences ensure that a wide range of perspectives is represented. Kameron Plotner, Behavior Support Consultant, serves as the committee chair. We are currently identifying an outside consultant to help us ensure that we are providing an environment where individuals are supported, respected, and valued, free of judgment.

***A couple reminders:***

- Our nurses have sent home health forms for those who have not yet completed them. Information you provide on these forms helps ensure that we meet your child's medical needs at school. Please complete and return the forms if you have not already done so.
- We are in the midst of a highly active flu season; every day we're sending home 5-10 students who are sick. Please review [my letter from November 16](#) which outlines ways to protect against the "triple threat" of respiratory illnesses this winter season: RSV, flu and COVID-19.
- Parking lot reminders: Please do not use the Millersport entrance to cut through to the main entrance on Stahl. Stop at stop signs. Observe the 10 mph speed limit. Do NOT pass a bus when its flashing lights are on. Smoking is not allowed on school grounds.

On behalf of the entire Summit Academy team, I extend sincere wishes to you and your family for a happy holiday season.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Mary Bennett*

Mary Bennett, M.S.Ed., SBL, SDL  
Principal, Summit Academy

P.S.: As a reminder, the last day of school is **Thursday, December 22**. School will resume on **Tuesday, January 3**.