

March 21, 2021

Dear Garden City School Community,

I am happy to report that the number of positive COVID-19 cases within our district continues to decline, even with all grade levels back for full-time, in-person instruction. Last week, there were 25 new cases:

High School – 14 students
Middle School - 1 student
Stewart – 5 students
Stratford – 4 students
Homestead - 1 student

Department of Health was notified. Most of these cases were within families, and none were due to transmissions within our schools.

For the most part, things have gone very smoothly with the return of all students. While we are still abiding by all health and safety precautions, a sense of normalcy has returned to our buildings. I am hopeful that as we look ahead to the final three months of the school year, we will be able to celebrate our students' successes and accomplishments in more traditional ways as state and local guidelines continue to change.

NYS Assessments & Regents Exams

As you may have heard, the U.S. Department of Education has mandated that standardized exams take place this year. The New York State Education Department has submitted a request to the federal government to waive all state assessments for this school year. A decision on the state's waiver request is still pending. This means that the state must proceed (for now) with administering all federally required state assessments. In the near future, the state should be offering additional guidance to districts on these assessments. More information on this will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Fall Athletic Season

As we continue our fall athletic season, we are still allowing two spectators per participant for home and away games. I thank all athletes and their guests for their cooperation. The games held so far have gone exceptionally well and our spectators were respectful of all guidelines. It is so wonderful to see our students out on our fields!

Travel Guidelines

As a reminder, domestic travel restrictions will be lifted as of April 1 based on the [interim guidance](#) that was issued last week. Please continue to follow all [safety guidelines](#) as outlined by the state. Our students and staff have been following safety guidelines in our schools that has allowed us to remain open, and we want to continue to remain open after the break.

Finally, our students are happy to be coming to school every day. Our students learning from home remotely are also learning and thriving. We will be asking secondary parents of children who attend school every other day to commit to either full remote or full in-person instruction. A survey will be sent to those parents later this week with details. Our remote students will continue to have the option to return to full in person instruction as well.

Thank you for continuing to care for yourself and for one another. Enjoy the beautiful weather this afternoon!

Sincerely,

Kusum

Kusum Sinha, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools