

Daniel T. White

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August 6, 2020

Dear Urban-Suburban Families,

The Urban-Suburban Governance Board hopes this letter finds you and your family well and enjoying some of the wonderful summer weather we have been experiencing. We wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the frustration and anxiety we are all feeling around the upcoming school year. Please know that all of our school districts would like nothing more than to have all of our students back in school full time. Unfortunately, due to the impact of COVID-19 and the mandated guidance from the New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of Health, a traditional start and typical school year is not possible.

The emergency school closings we all experienced last year were unprecedented and unexpected. However, all of our districts have been planning and preparing for a reopening this September. While the mandated guidance is the same for all districts in New York State, the specific instructional plans may look different by district. Some districts will be able to bring certain grade levels back five days per week, while others will need to offer a hybrid model where students attend school part-time in person and part-time virtually. In addition to a hybrid model, all districts will be offering a 100% remote learning option for students who are not comfortable returning to the classroom this year.

While the 2020-21 school year will certainly be different, all of our districts are committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. We want to assure you that your child's district is ready and able to offer the support necessary for success. You will be provided all of the programs being offered by your district and can choose from the options they have presented. If you have not received any information from your child's district, please reach out to the principal to learn what the instructional plan will look like in September and what options you may have. If you have questions or concerns, your child's district will be the best contact for school answers and support.

Transportation will be provided to you on the days that your district is offering in person programming, except when Rochester City School District is closed due to Superintendent conference days. Feel free to contact Urban-Suburban with transportation questions.

We encourage you to stay connected to your school, the program and wish you and your children a successful start to the school year!

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Putnam, Ed.D. Governance Board Chair

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Superintendent, Penfield Central School District

Felicia A. Smith Program Director Urban-Suburban

Felicia H. Smith