

Dr. Maureen A. Long
Superintendent of School's
Ext 101

Jennifer Cannavo
Principal
Ext 119

Kathy Cietek
District Treasurer
Ext 105

Cheri Vandenberg
Guidance Counselor
Ext 156

Meghan Amatrano
CSE Chairperson
Ext 115

Carin D'Ambro
School Nurse
Ext 109
Fax 434-2840

Board of Education

President
Jeff Masline

Vice President
William Nevins

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Courtney Jaskula
Jennifer Wilson
John Diefenderfer

District Clerk
Jeanne Mentiply

Menands Union Free School District



19 Wards Lane, Menands, NY 12204
T (518) 465-4561 F (518)- 434-2840
www.menands.org

August 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

As we get closer to the start of the 2020-2021 school year, we provide the following updates and information; some of which has been communicated previously and some new or updated. Please note, the most current and up to date information can be found on the school webpage: www.menands.org using the first link on the Home Page under News and Announcements: Reopening Information and Updates – Review our plan, all of which can be translated into other languages, via the G-Translate feature.

- The district has developed a re-opening plan and submitted it to both the NYS Education Department, and the NYS Department of Health. The plan will remain fluid to allow for updates based on subsequent guidance, and feedback from all constituent groups. The plan in its entirety can be accessed on the webpage.
- We conducted the first of three parent forums on August 10, which offered greater detail, and provided parents and families the opportunities to share their questions. **Two additional virtual parent forums are scheduled for Monday August 17 at 5PM, and Thursday August 20 at 6PM.** Links to participate will be posted on the district webpage.
- Questions can continue to be submitted to a dedicated email address: forumcomments@menands.org
- A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document has been developed, based on the questions received to date, and can be accessed on the webpage. This will continue to be updated as we receive additional questions.
- Given our unique nature as a K-8 school, and the additional classroom space resulting from our building project, **Menands School is able to provide in person instruction to all students in grades K-8**, while adhering to all recommendations and protocols suggested by both the NYS Education Department and The Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- To achieve the social distancing recommendations, arrival and dismissal will be staggered for K-8 and 6-8 students, the schedules for on-site instruction can be found on the webpage.
- To provide the greatest amount of time to finalize planning and preparation of the building and classroom spaces, as well as training and professional development for faculty and staff, **the start date for students will now be Monday September 14.** The revised school calendar can be accessed via the webpage
- Though we are able to provide onsite instruction, parents may choose to have their children participate remotely. Sample remote learning schedules can be viewed on the webpage. In order to finalize schedules and planning for remote learning, we must know how many students and families will choose that option. This will be determined via a survey.

(OVER)

All parents and families are highly encouraged to visit our webpage and:

- Review the entire plan
- View the prior updates
- View the recording of the initial forum
- Review the FAQ
- Participate in the upcoming forums
- Submit remaining questions to forumcomments@menands.org

All parents and families **MUST complete the survey indicating their choice of instruction, in person or remote, by August 20, 2020.** The survey can be found at <https://forms.gle/zjPhVDdvMC9JZCWAA>

If you are unable to access any of the materials or information remotely, including the survey, please contact Liz Mentiply at lmentiply@menands.org or via phone at 518-465-4561 ext. 119.

Sincerely,

Dr. Maureen A. Long

Dr. Maureen A. Long
Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Jennifer Cannavo

Mrs. Jennifer Cannavo
Principal