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# Menands Union Free School District



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[www.menands.org](http://www.menands.org)

September 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

We are just over a week away from the start of the 2020 – 2021 school year. Though the start of this school year will look quite different from what we are accustomed to, we are incredibly excited to welcome our students back – be it in person or remotely – we have missed them!

We have spent a great deal of time and effort all summer preparing for a safe return and meaningful instruction in the coming year. We will have 52% (159) of our students joining us for daily in person instruction, and 48 % (147) who will be participating remotely. Our teachers have been coming in on their own time to ready spaces and materials. Custodial staff have been hard at work organizing, cleaning and sanitizing the entire building. Clerical staff are finalizing paperwork for staff, students and families, and reviewing and updating all necessary information in our student management system. This will all culminate next week with four, full Superintendent's Conference Days (September 8 – 11), so we are fully prepared to welcome back our students for the **first day of school, Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>**.

This communication contains important and relevant information for students and families:

- For all students, a "Back to School" flyer including class and teacher assignment.
- Middle school schedules are included, for both in person and remote students.
- For those students attending in person, and whose parents have indicated they will not ride the bus, there is detailed information regarding arrival and dismissal procedures.
  - Anyone entering the building will be required to submit a COVID-19 Attestation questionnaire, each time they arrive. The attestation can be accessed at <https://entry.neric.org/menands> and **must be completed for each in person student daily by 7:30 AM**. Students who answer "no" to all questions are able to attend school. In the event of a "yes" response, students should be kept home, and contact made with the school nurse for further guidance.
  - For students attending remotely the "Back to School" flyer provides the dates and times for Chromebook and materials pick up. A paper copy of the attestation is included in the mailing, and should be completed and brought with you on the assigned day and time.
  - A separate sheet is included relative to protocols and procedures in place in the event of a symptomatic student or staff member, or if we were to have a confirmed case.

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There is additional information that is still under development and will be forthcoming. This includes remote elementary student schedules as well as technology resources for students and families participating remotely; both are expected to be available next week, during materials pick up. Additionally, technology resources, including video tutorials, for both parents and students will be posted to the web page.

Despite the unique nature of the start of this school year, we are committed, perhaps more than ever, to partnering with our parents and families to provide robust learning opportunities and to meet the needs of each of our students, consistent with our mission.

Our school webpage: [www.menands.org](http://www.menands.org) is the most current and up to date source of information. As always, if you have any questions, or if there is assistance or clarification we can provide, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Maureen A. Long*

Dr. Maureen A. Long  
Superintendent of Schools

*Mrs. Jennifer Cannavo*

Mrs. Jennifer Cannavo  
Principal

## **MENANDS SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

The Menands School District, in partnership with students, teachers, parents and the community, is committed to excellence. We prepare students to excel in all areas of learning, encourage them to respect cultural diversity, and expect them to become valued members of society. We strive to develop life-long learners within a safe, nurturing and supportive environment. By creating innovative, well-balanced programs that challenge the unique abilities of all students, we are able to nurture each child's potential. We are educating the leaders of tomorrow and believe that children come first.