



DeRuyter Central School

Home of the Rockets

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January 4, 2021

Dear Families:

Happy New Year! We are working tirelessly to keep our school community thriving, healthy, and safe. Please know when we go remote, like today, it is the last choice in our decision making. There are several factors that go into the decision to teach and learn remotely that could include: a large number of students who are quarantined, staff being unavailable due to quarantining, a lack of available subs (this was the case for today), or the inability to transport our children.

Due to continued staff absences in the secondary schools, all students in grades 9-12 will be learning remotely for the rest of this week (January 5, 2021 through January 8, 2021). Pre-K through 8th grade students will resume in-person learning tomorrow, Tuesday, January 5, 2021. All BOCES students will continue to attend and transportation will be provided.

In an effort to enhance the current safety protocols, we are changing our masking requirements starting tomorrow. All students and staff will wear their masks at all times but will be given opportunities to take mask breaks throughout the day. Mask breaks will be given every hour (Pk-5) or every period (6-12) for a maximum of 5 minutes when:

- seated at their socially distanced desks,
- teachers are socially distanced from students, and
- **NO ONE** is moving around the room

All staff will be reviewing this in classes tomorrow.

Finally, the CDC has determined that gaiters (a fabric-covering in the form of a closed loop worn around the neck that can extend to cover the lower part of the face) are not as effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19. With that in mind, we will no longer allow gaiters to be worn in place of a mask. We have hundreds of masks available to any students who have been wearing a gaiter and do not have a regular mask.

High School Families (Grades 9-12) will have a grab and go breakfast and lunch available for pick up. They will be in the front foyer on Tuesday, January 5th, 2021 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am (two-day supply) and Thursday, January 7th, 2021 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am (another two-day supply.)

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

David M. Brown, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools