

Town Hall Meeting Re-Opening for CES Families

September 2021

John Rivers, Building Principal

Stacey Connor, Asst. Principal

CATS CAN & WILL!



CES MAIN OFFICE

We are here to help!
518-943-0574

■ **John Rivers: Principal**

jrivers@catskillcsd.org

■ **Stacey Connor: Assistant Principal**

sconnor@catskillcsd.org

- **Kate Crewell-Fuerst: Administrative Asst.**
kcrewell@catskillcsd.org ~ ext. 3306
- **Stephanie McCulloch: Administrative Aide**
smcculloch@catskillcsd.org ~ ext. 3309



DISTRICT OFFICES

■ **Dr. Ronel Cook**

Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent's Office, Secondary Campus
518-943-4696 ~ rcook@catskillcsd.org



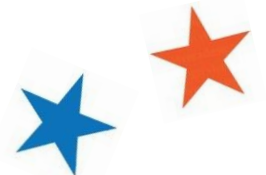
■ **Dr. Daniel Wilson**

Asst. to the Superintendent for Special Education

Special Education Office, Elementary Campus
518-943-0574 ~ dwilson@catskillcsd.org

People to Know at CES

- **Diane Ashley and Meghan Jenkins:** School Nurses
- **Vanessa Adair:** School Psychologist
- **Marlene Merchant:** School Counselor
- **Ela Kessel and Jennifer Osswald:** School Social Workers
- **Bill Muirhead:** Director of Transportation and Food Service



Welcome Back to School!

Monday, September 13th is the first day of instruction.

**Attendance by all
students is required!**



Catskill Elementary Re-Opening Plan

2021-2022

The NYS Education Department released a **Back to School Health and Safety Guide** on August 12, 2021 to help schools and school districts as they plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The guidance of the NYS Education Department is aligned with current CDC Guidance.

The Catskill Central School District's preliminary opening plan outlines specific health and safety guidelines, such as transportation, physical distancing in classrooms / cafeteria, face coverings for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status and ongoing cleaning / disinfecting.

WELCOME
BACK

Catskill Elementary Re-Opening Plan

Multi-Layer Mitigation Strategies

Many of the health and safety guidelines put in place last year, which helped prevent COVID-19 outbreaks and school closures, will continue indefinitely to ensure the safety of students, staff and families.

- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of the school buildings and busses.
- Temperature checks and surveys for visitors and substitutes.
- Improved ventilation in all school buildings.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at 60% alcohol.
- Respiratory etiquette - cough or sneeze into your mask or use a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Stay home when you are sick and call your healthcare provider. It is imperative that the parents monitor the wellness of their children. We strongly encourage staff and students to remain at home if they are not feeling well.
- Potential surveillance and point of care testing of students and staff in schools (Parent Authorization is required for surveillance testing).

Catskill Elementary Re-Opening Plan

Face Coverings

In accordance with CDC and NYSED recommendations, face masks covering both the mouth and nose will be required for all students, staff and visitors inside schools and on school busses regardless of vaccination status. Masks will be optional outdoors on school grounds.

Students will be provided mask breaks when seated in class and socially distanced.

Importantly, CDC guidance also indicates that in PreK-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3-6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

Given this guidance from the CDC, the district anticipates that fewer students will likely be quarantined by adhering to the recommendations to require mask wearing in our schools regardless of vaccination status.

Catskill Elementary Re-Opening Plan

Social Distancing

Schools will maintain at least 3 feet physical distance between students within classrooms. All schools within the district are able to comply with this guidance and fully accommodate all students for instruction.



Catskill Elementary Re-Opening Plan

Transportation

Mr. Bill Muirhead
518-943-4550

- All students and staff must wear face masks while riding on a school bus regardless of vaccination status.
- CDC guidelines permit busses to operate at full capacity.
- Windows and roof hatches will be open to increase ventilation on the bus.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will continue following each bus run daily.

All students will be placed on a bus for the upcoming school year. However, if parents plan on driving their children to / or from school, we ask that you please inform the Transportation Department to assist with our planning.



Catskill Elementary Re-Opening Plan

Cafeteria

- Appropriate physical distancing will be maintained in cafeterias and eating areas to provide necessary meals to all students in attendance.
- Seating arrangements for students are being made to ensure as much physical distancing as possible within the space constraints.
- Layered mitigation protocols will include hand washing or sanitizing before and after meals.
- Limited mask removal to the duration of eating.
- Cleaning and disinfecting between lunch periods.
- Providing increased ventilation of seating areas.



Catskill Elementary Re-Opening Plan

Music

- Students in band and chorus will continue to maintain 6 feet of physical distance during instruction.
- Wind and brass instrumental instruction will continue to make use of musician masks or bell covers indoors to prevent any aerosol transmission of infection.
- Outdoor instruction will be considered as weather permits.



Catskill Elementary Re-Opening Plan

Physical Education

- When indoors, students will maintain 6 feet of social distancing during physical education instruction.
- PE teachers will prioritize outdoor activities as weather permits.



Catskill Elementary Re-Opening Plan

Lockers

- Lockers are usually provided for students in Grades 3-5.
- Locker use is subject to change during the school year if necessary.



Catskill Elementary Re-Opening Plan

School Events

- Catskill CSD is committed to restoring as many in-person school events as possible during the 2021-22 school year.
- Included in this outlook are school-based Welcome Back events, Open Houses, teacher conferences, and Pride Assemblies, as well as special events like our Literacy Fair, Trick or Treat Night, and Spring Carnival.
- Face masks would be required for all indoor events, and would be optional for outdoor events.
- Event status is subject to change during the year if necessary.



Virtual Learning Plan

THE REMOTE OPTION WILL BE PROVIDED BY QUESTAR III BOCES, NOT CATSKILL CSD TEACHERS. A NOTE FROM YOUR CHILD'S MEDICAL PROVIDER WILL BE REQUIRED FOR HE OR SHE TO QUALIFY FOR THE REMOTE OPTION. THE REMOTE INSTRUCTION OPTION IS A FULL YEAR (SEPTEMBER 2021-JUNE 2022) COMMITMENT. IT'S IMPERATIVE FOR YOU TO REVIEW THIS WITH YOUR CHILD BEFORE COMMITTING TO THE PROGRAM.

- The Virtual Learning Academy will be staffed by Questar III employees to include a BOCES principal, counselor, teachers and clerical/data support staff.
- The student course delivery model will include a teacher to student ratio not to exceed 25:1 and integrate an electronic platform along with synchronous instruction. Students will remain district enrollees and our District will assist in the support of their learning except in special circumstances (i.e., special education groupings).

Delivery Models:

- Remote - Grades K-5 - Teachers are NYS certified employees of Questar III
Instruction: Scheduled video class sessions 5 days a week.
- Course content: Course content is platform based with prep and training provided by a Questar III Remote K-6 Questar III teacher

The remote option is only available for students who have an immunocompromised condition. A doctor's note is required from your child's medical provider to qualify for the remote option. Please have the doctor's note prepared to submit to the district by or before Friday, August 27, 2021.

Technology Distribution

Tuesday-Friday, September 7th - 10th at Catskill High School

Tuesday 9/7:	8 am - 7 pm
Wednesday 9/8:	8 am – 7 pm
Thursday 9/9:	8 am – 7 pm
Friday 9/10	8 am - 4 pm

Details:

- The District can now provide **1 Chromebook per CCSD student** for use during remote learning.
- Chromebooks are strongly encouraged over phones or tablets, which may not be compatible with all learning apps and assignments.
- Wireless hotspots will be available to CCSD families without internet access (one per family).
- The Technology Department tent will be located near the High School gym entrance.

Thank You!

We look forward to a fantastic year with your children.

Questions?

Call the CES Main
Office at 518-943-0574
(ext. 3306 or 3309)
for assistance!

