

**Floral Park-Bellerose School District**

Administration Office

One Poppy Place, Floral Park, New York 11001

516-434-2725

Fax: 516-327-9304

**KATHLEEN SOTTILE, Ed.D.**

*Superintendent of Schools*

July 21, 2020

Dear Floral Park-Bellerose School District Community,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer and this beautiful weather. As mentioned in my last letter, our re-entry committees have been meeting regularly to determine the safest way possible for our students to return to the classroom. We have also received guidance documents from the [New York State Department of Health](#) and [New York State Department of Education](#) this past week. These documents are posted on our website for you to review. The combined 166 pages outlines mandated practices and procedures as well as recommended best practices. Our next step is to capture information from our school community through a [re-entry survey](#). There are many details that must be addressed in order to create a safe re-entry plan for our students and staff and information from this survey will help guide our reopening plans.

As per the guidance documents, students will be required to wear masks on the entire bus ride to and from school, (will only be allowed to sit with family members), as they enter and exit the building, and when they are in the classroom and cannot socially distance. If your child has not had the opportunity to wear a mask for an extended period of time, we would advise parents, especially those of our youngest learners, to begin working with their children prior to the start of school. Here are some resources that may be helpful to you with regard to wearing masks.

[LICM - Health and Safety during COVID-19.pdf](#)

[How to teach children to wear a mask using shaping.pdf](#)

**This year will be different than any we have ever experienced before.** Regardless of the model we start off with in September (remote, hybrid or in person), we will

need to be prepared to fluidly move between models in the event that our regional conditions change. **As stated in my last letter, a general session with our sub-committee members will be streamed live for our school community on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. I will post information on the website and send a ConnectED call with the connection details specific to this meeting.** At this session, our committees will report their findings and recommendations. We will also have preliminary survey results to share as well.

The safety of your children and our staff is our primary concern. Please respond to this survey as soon as possible so we can make the most informed decisions for September. Together we can accomplish this monumental task and provide our children with a truly exceptional educational program for all students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Sottile  
Superintendent of Schools