

ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. David Moyer, Superintendent of Schools

144 Todd Hill Road, LaGrangeville, NY 12540

Phone 845-486-4460

June 3, 2021

Dear Arlington Elementary Families,

We are anticipating warmer weather in the upcoming weeks and are making some changes to our health and safety protocols in order to keep our elementary students and staff safe and healthy. We have seen a decline in the number of COVID-19 positive individuals across our entire school district in the month of May and feel that some of the mitigation layers in place may put our students at risk for other problems, such as heat exhaustion. We have worked collaboratively with the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health on the following changes for our elementary schools:

Desk Barriers

Our facilities staff will spend the next few days removing all desk barriers from our classrooms without air conditioners. As the heat index increases, the desk barriers may hinder air flow and we want to ensure that we maximize any and all opportunities for cross ventilation as we expect temperatures levels to rise.

Contact Tracing

It is important to note that without desk barriers, we will need to expand our level of contact tracing, which may lead to more students having to quarantine. During the 48-hour look back period, anyone within 6 feet of a positive person for more than 10 minutes without a barrier is considered a close contact and will need to be quarantined for 10 days from the time of exposure.

Mask Breaks

When Governor Cuomo lifted the mask mandate for fully vaccinated people, he explicitly stated that this does not apply to schools. As per the [Governor's May 17 announcement](#), "Consistent with the CDC guidance, Pre-K to 12 schools ... will continue to follow the State's existing COVID-19 health guidelines until more New Yorkers are fully vaccinated."

Students and staff are still required to wear masks in our school buildings and on school property. As a public school district, we must continue to follow the NYS health guidelines until the State and local health departments inform us that masks are no longer required in public schools. However, we understand that with the warmer weather, students will need additional mask breaks to avoid heat exhaustion, especially during physical activity.

We are encouraging our faculty and staff to ensure students are provided frequent and extended mask breaks, especially when outdoors. We will continue to remind students to play six feet apart.

Water Breaks

We are also encouraging faculty and staff to ensure students take frequent water breaks. Please make sure your child comes to school with a water bottle each day.

Thank you for all your support as we continue to navigate the changing context of the pandemic.

Sincerely,
Dr. Dave Moyer