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Interim Superintendent of Schools
Salem Washington Academy
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Dear Salem Families,

Welcome back to another school year. The 2021-2022 school year is rapidly approaching and we are working diligently to prepare to welcome your students safely back to school. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information regarding the start of this school year in light of the latest, rapidly-changing developments in the transmission of COVID 19 and the guidance available to us.

You are probably aware that the NYS Department of Health will not be issuing guidance to schools for the upcoming year. In the absence of this guidance, the Salem Central School District will depend on the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatricians to make decisions about the safe opening of schools this fall. We will also rely on the Washington County Department of Health to provide recommendations that are pertinent to our localized situation.

Our top priority is to safely return to daily in-person instruction for all students. All of our planning and preparation has been based on that goal. At this time, the district intends to follow the CDC recommendations for three feet of social distancing in classrooms (whenever possible) and to use a multi-layered prevention strategy to include the following:

- Universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors regardless of vaccination status;
- Mask wearing on school buses for all riders at all times;
- Hand washing and respiratory etiquette;
- Staying home (students and staff) when they have signs of infectious illness and referral to their healthcare provider;
- Cleaning and disinfection;
- Ongoing monitoring of community transmission including occurrence of outbreaks to guide future decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies.

The district's reopening plan is a fluid document that is subject to change based on the recommendations from the CDC, AAP, NYSED, and Washington County Public Health. **Our full plan for opening in September is posted on the district website and I ask you to review it at your first opportunity. The details of the mitigation measures are listed by category.** Feel free to contact me or your child's principal with any questions or concerns.

As always, the health and safety of the students and staff at the Salem Washington Academy School are our highest priority. We look forward to welcoming your children back to school in a safe and healthy environment where they can continue to grow and achieve their highest potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark E. Doody". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark E. Doody

Interim Superintendent