



December 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to update you on some important changes to our instructional model for students in grades 5-12. As we continually adapt to the many changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are regularly reflecting on and evaluating our instructional model in order to offer the best possible education for our students. We learned much during the Spring switch to virtual/online learning. Over this past summer, we developed instructional models that met New York State mandates and created safe environments in our schools. This past fall, we shifted our instruction to a hybrid and remote model and launched new platforms to support virtual learning.

I am pleased to announce that we will be implementing some changes to our model in order to best meet the needs of our students.

- We will increase our synchronous (student/teacher) interaction time for all 5-12 students. Starting this month, our 5-12 teachers will be adapting their instruction to ensure that every student, hybrid and remote, has daily live access to their teachers.*
- We will now utilize our class schedules/times and all students, hybrid and remote, will be **expected** to attend their classes following their regular schedule. This applies for both hybrid (in-person) and remote students.*
- Teachers will provide our remote learners with access to virtual platforms that engage all students in daily, meaningful interaction.*

It will take some time for our students and staff to adjust to these changes and we will be implementing this transition throughout the month of December. In order to ensure this is developmentally and physically appropriate for our students, our teachers will adjust the amount of synchronous "screen time" based on the course requirements and student needs. All students are expected to be present at the start of every class and remain for the duration that is expected by each teacher.

It is our hope that this instructional shift addresses some of the challenges our students are facing on a day to day basis. As with all things this year, we ask for your patience and understanding as we make these transitions. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your building principal. I wish everyone a joyous holiday season. Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Bowles
Superintendent of Schools