



Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

Office of the Superintendent

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Dear Ken-Ton Community,

The first day of school is only five days away and we are extremely excited for this momentous occasion. We will welcome our families and children back this **Wednesday, September 1st**. This will be the first time all students return for full, in-person, 5-day attendance since March 2020. We come into this year with a mindset of growth and expansion, creating new opportunities for families and students. This includes the successful implementation of our 1:1 initiative which provides a device for every child, ongoing capital improvements, the reimagining of programming including the opening of Hamilton for our new full-day UPK Program, and continuing the work of the Ken-Ton Forward strategic plan. I hope everyone shares my excitement as we embark upon this new chapter in Ken-Ton!

In preparation for the first day of school, please note the following:

- Visit www.ktufsd.org/back2school for school supply lists, orientation/supply drop-off information, answers to frequently asked questions, COVID-19 mitigation strategies, and more.
- Masking is required in all District buildings.
- All families and staff will need to complete the daily health screening questionnaire (attestation). We will share additional information early next week on how it will be completed. This will be a very similar process to last year.
- Breakfast and lunch will be free for all students at all schools this year. Students will be distanced to the greatest extent possible in our cafeterias. Schools will continue to maximize the use of space.
- We will continue to encourage vaccination and will host more vaccination clinics once more students are eligible (currently, any students age 12 and up are eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine).
- Families will soon have the opportunity to provide consent for their children to participate in COVID-19 testing in school. We will share the sign-up link as soon as it is provided.
- We have been making good use of the summer weeks to get as much capital construction work completed as possible. Work will continue during the school year after school. We sincerely appreciate the cooperation and patience of our families as this work continues to move Ken-Ton forward.

The health and safety of students and staff will always be at the forefront in Ken-Ton Schools. We will continue to monitor this pandemic closely in collaboration with the Erie County Department of Health and will be prepared to pivot to a less or more restrictive setting accordingly. It is important to remember that the data has demonstrated that schools are safe. We are confident that the various mitigation strategies implemented in our schools have contributed to this safety. Therefore, everyone must do their part to keep the spread of the virus contained. Together, we can make this a very successful year for you and your children. This is our priority.

We wish all of our students, families and staff the very best as we kick off the 2021-22 school year. We will make our community proud and continue to exemplify the District's legacy of distinction. Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Sabatino Cimato
Superintendent of Schools

The Ken-Ton school community will provide our students with the supports, tools and diverse opportunities needed to meet the challenges of an ever changing world.