



**Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda
Union Free School District**

Office of the Superintendent

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November 18, 2020

Dear Ken-Ton School District Community,

Earlier today, we learned that the Ken-Ton School District will be one of many districts in Erie County that must make the transition to fully remote learning beginning on Monday, Nov. 23rd. This transition is necessitated by the Governor's designation of much of Erie County as an Orange Zone Micro-Cluster. As a result, our Gr. K-1 Groups A and B classes and Gr. K-12 in-person Self-Contained Special Education programs will transition to fully remote learning beginning Monday. Schools will be in contact with families regarding supply pick-up opportunities if necessary.

There are very challenging requirements schools must meet before resuming in-person instruction in an Orange Zone. Schools are required to shift to fully remote learning for a minimum of four days. They cannot reopen without a plan to test 100% of students/staff prior to reopening, followed by mandatory weekly testing (25% each week). We will assess whether we can meet this requirement. Although this task would not be impossible, it appears at this time that it will not be probable to accomplish. Bringing our community rate down resulting in a Yellow Micro-Cluster designation or better would make it easier to resume in-person instruction.

This has been an extremely challenging time for our entire school district community. The greatest burden has fallen upon our families. I encourage all of our families to contact any member of our school district staff if you need assistance. Our teachers, administrators, and support staff are here to help. No concern is too great or too small. Additionally, please take advantage of our [weekly meal distribution](#), which will remain unchanged. Please also visit our website for information on the [Virtual Learning Support Centers](#), offered in collaboration with Erie County, which may be able to assist you with childcare.

Just as throughout this entire pandemic, it is important that we continue to come together as a community to demonstrate how we will persevere. Our partnership will be the key to our success in driving down the rate of infection. I am grateful and continue to be impressed by the dedication of our entire community to meet the requirements of our "new normal." Please engage our children in continuous conversation regarding proactive measures that we can all take to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We will continue to evaluate the situation weekly and provide updates in our Weekly Connection every Friday. Thank you, and stay safe and strong.

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.