

# Hancock Central School District

**The Wildcat Pledge:** We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

**Our Vision:** Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

**Core Beliefs:**

- **Our mindset:** We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- **Collaboration:** We work better together, always.
- **Innovation:** We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- **Integrity:** We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
- **Learning environment:** Our approach is engaging, learner-centered and adaptable to individual needs.
- **Student centered:** We put students first.

## PROTECT ... RECOVER ... ADVANCE

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July 8, 2020

Dear Hancock Wildcat Community Members, Students, Faculty and Staff,

At his daily conference on Wednesday, July 8, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced his office will provide school reopening guidance for the 2020-2021 school year on Monday, July 13. In addition, the Governor indicated that school districts will have until Thursday, July 30, to submit school opening plans for review and final approval to the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Finally, Mr. Cuomo concluded his prepared remarks by indicating that a final decision with the regard to the reopening of schools in September will be made no later than Friday, August 7. While planning to reopen school in the face of COVID-19 is sure to be a daunting and challenging endeavor, I want to assure our entire school community that we are committed to ensuring the safest possible return to school in the fall.

From a planning perspective, the Hancock Central School District has been deeply engaged in preparing for any school reopening scenario that might be proposed by the Governor. Six weeks ago, in early May, the District formed the *Wildcat Reset* Reopening Planning Task Force. As I indicated in the kick-off media release announcing the *Wildcat Reset*, our top priority as a school district is to intensively plan for the reopening of school in September so as to ensure an infection-free, safe, welcoming and nurturing learning environment. And while work remains to be done to this end, the District feels we are making tremendous progress toward preparing to safely welcome our students, faculty and staff back to school in whatever form school takes – be it fully on-site, entirely online via remote instruction, or in a blended fashion where students are instructed at home and in the school building.

As a school district, we know that we are stronger together. In the coming days and weeks, HCS intends to actively engage our constituents in the culminating aspects of the *Wildcat Reset* planning process. In the near future, draft versions of our comprehensive reopening plan will be widely available for stakeholder review and comment. In addition, Center for Disease Control (CDC) and NYSED guidance documents will be visibly posted on the district website, [www.hancock.stier.org](http://www.hancock.stier.org).

Consistent with the Wildcat Pledge, I am extremely confident we will safely and successfully formulate a state-of-the-art approach to reopening school in September that is focused on “nurturing and empowering each learner’s unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.” The health, safety, and welfare of every child is, and always will be, our top priority.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Terrance P. Dougherty, Ph.D.  
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