



West Canada Valley Central School District

Committed to preparing responsible, caring and productive citizens.

DONALD J. SHEPARDSON
Superintendent

KELLEY CROSSETT
Business Manager
District Treasurer

CORRENE M. HOLMES
Elementary Principal

GLENN BROADBENT
Middle/High Principal

EDMUND DOUGHERTY
Director of Special Programs
Athletic Director

FELIX W. RAY JR.
Transportation Supervisor

August 19, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I sincerely hope that everyone is having a great summer. As a society and a school district, we continue to work through difficult times as we approach the upcoming school year. A few months ago, I was optimistic that we would be in a much better place to begin this school year. As you know, we continue to battle infection rates which will result in a more cautious opening in a few weeks. Schools anticipate that the new Governor will be issuing more direct guidance in the coming days. This will likely result in some level of mask protection requirements that we will adapt to for the start of the year. The good news is all our students will be back in the building and as the year progresses, we hope to be able to lessen some of the restrictions. Unlike last year, school will look more normal this year with student movement, lockers, band, chorus, recess, and hopefully some class trips. Athletics continue to remain on schedule and fall practice will start next week. At this time there is no requirement for masks to be worn outside for any event or activity. Currently, there are no restrictions on spectators. The district will continue to monitor the situation and will present a final plan at the August 30, 2021, special meeting of the Board of Education which begins at 5:30. The opening discussion will likely occur closer to 6:00. The meeting will be streamed, and questions/concerns can be sent to ksheets@westcanada.org throughout the meeting. A draft of the plan will be posted in the coming days for everyone to view and provide comment. Please do not hesitate to call or email me in the district office with any questions as well. The number to the district office is 315-845-6800 and the email is djshepardson@westcanada.org.

The 2021-22 school year will focus on two main principles:

- The health and safety of our students and staff.
- Limiting educational disruption by keeping our students in school.

The upcoming reopening plan will include anticipated state guidance, regional data and discussion, and information provided by our local health department.

5447 State Route 28
PO Box 360
Newport, N.Y. 13416-0360

Telephone: 315-845-6800
Middle/High Fax: 845-8652
Elementary Fax: 845-1640
Garage Fax: 845-8653
www.westcanada.org

The plan will be designed to accomplish the above aforementioned goals and transition our district toward a more typical school year. Although we will begin the year with enhanced safety measures, this will be an important first step in transitioning all students back to in-person instruction. I continue to be sincerely grateful for the patience and understanding of everyone as we navigate this school year together.

The district is including a copy of the school calendar in this mailing. The calendar is also posted on the district website. I encourage each of you to monitor both the website and social media for updates throughout the school year. The district will continue to use the call system to communicate important messaging as well. **Please note: the first day for students is Tuesday, September 7, 2021.**

I want to welcome everyone back. Although I anticipate another challenging year ahead, I am confident that we will have a positive and productive school year. I truly feel fortunate to work alongside this great community and look forward to seeing each of you. Enjoy the remaining days of summer. Please stay safe!

D.J. Shepardson - Superintendent