

Dear Liberty Families,

As the first day of school nears, I know many of you want to know what the 2021-22 school year will look like.

Earlier this summer I told you that Liberty, along with many other school districts in New York, was awaiting guidance from the New York State Health Department. COVID-19 continues to be a serious concern, especially as new variants emerge. But yesterday the DOH announced that schools and school districts should develop their own reopening plans, and, unlike the 2020-21 school year, the DOH would not provide guidance.

The DOH did, however, recommend that schools follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and local health departments, and that's what we will do here at Liberty. We will be working closely with the Sullivan County Health Department to iron out the details of our reopening plan. Here, though, is what we know now:

- Students learn best when they are in classrooms with their teachers and peers. Liberty intends to fully open the elementary, middle and high schools for in-person instruction to all students.
- Masks are among the most effective ways of preventing the transmission of COVID-19, and masks will likely remain mandated for all students and staff while in Liberty schools, offices, and on school buses, regardless of vaccination status.
- New York's schools successfully minimized the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff last school year by following health protocols such as mask wearing, social distancing and hand hygiene.

As we formulate our reopening plans I would like to hear from our families and staff members, and there are several opportunities for you to ask questions and share your thoughts. Here's how:

- Join me for the Aug. 11 Walk-and-Talk on the LHS track. We'll walk a lap together and chat. [Please RSVP here.](#)
- Email your questions and comments to [Questions@LibertyK12.org](mailto:Questions@LibertyK12.org)
- Attend one of our Community Reopening Forums:
  - Aug. 23: In-person and outdoors in front of Liberty High School. 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.
  - Aug. 24: Virtually, 5-6 p.m. (The link to the virtual forum will be shared at a later date.)

I look forward to safely welcoming our students back to Liberty schools, and know that together we can ensure that the 2021-22 school year is a good one. I will continue to keep you updated and again, please attend a forum, Walk-and-Talk, or email me.