



December 11, 2020

Dear Big Flats, Center Street, Gardner Road, and Ridge Road Parents and Guardians:

As we announced last week, our plan is for Center Street, Gardner Road, and Ridge Road join Big Flats on December 14 for hybrid instruction. We are truly looking forward to this, but we caution everyone that we are under the direction of the governor. If the status of our region changes, as it has in the past, this plan will change. We ask that you continue to check your emails and listen to our district-wide phone calls for any updates.

In the meantime, we continue to plan for hybrid instruction at all PreK-4 schools. Please see below for important information regarding instruction and safety. To our Big Flats families, you too will see a few changes even though you have been in the hybrid model for several weeks.

Parent Guide to PK- 4th Grade Instructional Models:

- We are revising our instructional models in order to better meet the needs of our students.
- Your child will participate in daily new learning. Your child's teacher will accomplish this by using a variety of methods (e.g., live streaming, recorded lessons, online tasks, hard-copy instructional materials sent home, etc.).
- Your child's teacher will be sending information regarding their daily learning schedule.
- Our "PK-4th Parent Guide" provides information on what the week would look like for each cohort and links to useful information. [Click here](#) for that document.
- Please note that our teachers will need to start and end their live meetings promptly in order to keep to their schedule.
- If your child has missed the daily live connection/lesson, your child's teacher will communicate when and where to find the lesson.
- If your child needs support, please communicate with your child's teacher.
- Teachers are not able to support technology issues/concerns during live lessons. If your child is having issues with district-owned equipment, please submit a request form [here](#) or leave a detailed message at (607) 481-2850. If you are having issues with home equipment or connectivity, here is a link for helpful resources: [Technical Support Services for Families](#).

Special Area Schedules:

- Please refer to the special area schedule to follow your child's daily specials.
- The schedules can be found on your child's [itslearning](#) page or in the calendar sent by the special area teachers.

Live Etiquette Reminders: Please remind and encourage your child about the following when in remote instruction. Remember that when learning remotely, students are considered at school and all school rules apply.

Students, we ask that you please:

- Sit at a desk or table for your lesson.
- Remain in one location throughout the learning session.
- Dress appropriately for school time learning.
- Be aware of your surroundings and noise level in the background.

- Wait to have snacks or drinks after your live learning session.
- Be respectful throughout the learning time.
- Focus on the current lesson.
- Remember that sessions are being recorded for those who cannot connect live.

COVID Testing (Currently for Center Street, Gardner Road, Ridge Road students only):

- By order of the state, schools in an orange zone are required to test a portion of students and staff in the building weekly. The requirement is that 20% of the building’s population is tested monthly.
- A signed parent/guardian permission form is needed (please see the next section for more information).
- The tests will be performed by trained personnel and require only the lower nasal cavity to be swabbed - the rapid BinaxNOW test explained in prior communications. [Click here for a video](#) about what to expect for your child’s COVID testing. If you would like to practice this at home with your child, gently touch the inside of their nose with a cotton swab (“Q-Tip”) and circle five times. Some students may be comfortable doing this themselves.
- For the safety of our students, faculty and staff, we must limit the number of parents accompanying their student for testing. If you have concerns or questions with your child’s testing, please contact your building principal.
- The school will notify parents prior to your child’s COVID testing date.
- COVID testing results will be shared with parents on the day of their child’s test. If the test result is negative, the nurse will send an email. If the test is positive, you will receive a phone call from the school nurse.
- Because Big Flats is in a green zone, there is no requirement to test students for COVID.

COVID Consent to Test Form for Hybrid Students (Currently for Center Street, Gardner Road, Ridge Road students only):

- For parents choosing not to sign the testing permission form, your child(ren) will remain on 100% remote instruction with their current teacher.
- A child can only return to hybrid once the parent has signed the consent form OR when the state has changed the zone where the school is located to green.

Screening and Safety Protocols:

- We have revised our safety protocols based on recent guidance from the state on return to school of students who have symptoms. Please [click here for our new safety protocols](#), which have incorporated the NYS Department of Health requirements. A comprehensive outline of the NYS return to school protocols is available at this link: [prek-gr12_toolkit.pdf \(ny.gov\)](#).
- Please be sure to complete the Staywell health survey on the days your child attends school in person. We have resumed the reminder emails with the link to the survey. If you are unable to submit the survey online, please be sure to contact your building principal that day.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your principal. Please know how much we appreciate your patience and flexibility as we return to hybrid instruction at our three orange zone schools and transition to our revised learning model at all four PreK-4 schools.

Sincerely,
PreK-4 Principals

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