



CLEVELAND HILL
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



105 Maplevue Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14225-1599

Phone: 716 836-7200 • Fax: 716 836-0675

ES Fax: 716 836-3700 • MS Fax: 716 836-7741 • HS Fax: 716 836-5700

Dear Cleveland Hill School Community,

As you may be aware, the Erie County Department of Health Commissioner, Dr. Gale Burstein, sent a letter to the Williamsville Central School District stating that they are interpreting the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Interim Guidance as prohibiting mask breaks for students and school personnel during the school day while in school buildings. In fact, the NYSDOH makes no mention of mask breaks in its most recent Interim Guidance. The Cleveland Hill School District, along with other school districts in Erie County, has not interpreted the Department's silence on the topic of mask breaks as a requirement that school districts discontinue the humane practice of allowing mask breaks for students and staff while socially distanced.

Mask breaks will continue for all Cleveland Hill School District students and staff in the same safe and thoughtful manner as they have since September of 2020. School environments have been among the safest places for children and adults since the onset of this pandemic. Through our diligent implementation of a mosaic of mitigation strategies, transmission of COVID-19 in school settings continues to be extraordinarily rare.

We will continue to closely monitor COVID-19 infection rates in our community and schools, and will adjust our mitigation strategies as needed to maintain the safest environment possible. Our strong community-school partnership is essential in this regard. **Please stay consistent in monitoring your child's health, and keep them home if they present any COVID like symptoms. Also, if your child has been tested, and you are awaiting test results – DO NOT send your child to school until you have received the negative test result. Please contact our Health Office with any questions or concerns.**

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jon MacSwan
Superintendent