Dear Parents and Students,

We welcome you back to school this year. Things are a little different and we need to address some very important issues to keep students and staff healthy. Attached you will find the full document issued by the state regarding the return to school. You will also find a document regarding masks issued by Syracuse Arts Academy.

Masks are the prescribed medicine to mitigate the spread of COVID 19. They will be an essential part of daily student attendance and the ability to keep school in session. Masks should be worn at all times during the school day if at all possible. You can check the attached documents for exceptions and the procedures needed to exempt anyone from mask use.

Physical distancing is also an essential part of each school day. Schools were designed to house many individual students and close proximity to one another has been a traditional approach. We now encourage students to maintain 6’ of distance from one another as often as possible.

We need you to be aware as we proceed through the school year, we may need to change procedures to address safety concerns. We try to keep the whole picture in mind, but will also address individual needs as they arise.

The following personal procedures will need to be followed:

- Cloth face coverings should be worn while at school throughout the entire day. Please provide your child with a mask. Please keep in mind appropriate coverings that do not distract from our learning environment. Masks are not a toy. Masks should never be traded or shared.
- We all need to be cognizant of physical distancing. Please remind your child they should try to keep a 6’ bubble around them whenever possible. Students should not touch one another on purpose and be very mindful of their personal space.
- Our personal hygiene is imperative and students should be aware that hand washing and sanitizing should be a regular routine as they come and go in different areas of the school and encounter new environments. It is also advised to refrain from touching their faces.
- Students will be mostly kept together in cohorts. This provides the ability to contact trace. In case there is a positive identification, we will need to quickly track who they have been with, therefore classes will mostly stay together in common areas such as cafeteria and playground.

2 Week Schedule:
- Tues 18 8:30 - 1:00 Early Out / 1st - 6th in person and distance / Kindergarten testing
Wed 19 8:30 - 1:00 Early Out / 1st - 6th in person and distance / Kindergarten testing
Thur 20 8:30 - 1:00 Early Out / 1st - 6th in person and distance / Kindergarten testing
Fri 21 8:30 - 1:00 Early Out / 1st - 6th in person and distance / Kindergarten testing
Mon 24 8:30 - 1:00 Early Out / 1st - 6th in person and distance / Kindergarten testing
Tue 25 8:30 - 1:00 Early Out / Kindergarten - 6th in person and distance / Kindergarten begins
Wed 25 8:30 - 1:00 Early Out / Kindergarten - 6th in person and distance
Thu 26 8:30 - 1:00 Early Out / Kindergarten - 6th in person and distance
Fri 27 ALL students distance learning (every Friday will be this format until further notice)

Morning drop off and Afternoon Pick up:

- Breakfast will be available beginning at 7:50 am. Students will go to the cafeteria, sit in the same place daily and stay in the cafeteria until the first bell rings.
- As you drop off students, they will be allowed in the building. They are to go straight to their classroom and sit at their desks and silent read or begin work the teacher may provide. We ask that you time your drop off as closely as possible to the beginning of school. Please do not drop students off before 8:00 am, unless they are here for breakfast.
- Pick up will be done by excusing students alphabetically. Students with names beginning A-M will be excused at our first bell. Students with names beginning N-Z will be excused on our second bell. We will alter this quarterly.
- We ask you not to accompany students into the building the first day of school. We will get them directed to their classrooms.

Visitors / Volunteers / Check Out

- We love our volunteers, but we need to carefully allow visitors to the school. In the front foyer will be a self assessment that will need to be completed in order to come into the building. You may also be asked to have your temperature checked.
- If you have any symptoms, we ask that you not come to the school and have contact with others.
- No check outs after 3:00 pm.

PII - Personal Identification Information:

- If students or employees of the school have a positive diagnosis, identification of the person is to be kept confidential.
- Only the Health Department or health care providers are allowed to let the person know they are positive.
- All procedures are identified in the COVID-19 manual on the website.
Please be patient with us. This is the first time we have opened school during a pandemic. We ask you for cooperation as we try to address the health and safety of approximately 800 people that make this school operate.

We are excited to have our students back after a 6 month hiatus. We have missed them. We want to teach them. We are happy to partner with you as we proceed through this unique year.

Thank you for your support.

Judy Nixon - Principal of Syracuse Arts Academy North Campus
Michael Geilmann - Vice Principal of Syracuse Arts Academy North Campus