Dear Chautauqua Lake School Community:

It is with great excitement and cautious optimism that we share our 2020 Chautauqua Lake Reopening Plan. The health and safety of our students and staff was the Chautauqua Lake (CL) Reopening Committee's and our CL Leadership Team's primary focus throughout the planning process. We worked collaboratively and resiliently to develop creative and safe solutions while

maintaining educational equity and addressing students' social and emotional needs. The plan is intended to align with the applicable New York State Education Department (NYSED), New York State (NYS) Department of Health (DOH), and Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to produce the best possible and safest instructional environment we can with the tools and resources that we have available. Student, parent, teacher and



administrative feedback from this past spring and early summer helped shape our reopening plans. It has truly been a team effort with contributions coming from all factions of our professional learning community. We are grateful to everyone that has worked tirelessly to put this plan together, and we enthusiastically are looking forward to the start of the school year.

Our CL Reopening Committee and Leadership Team believe that a measured, strategic, and flexible approach is our most responsible way forward. The Chautauqua Lake Reopening Plan features four different learning models: full in-person, hybrid(s), remote, and self-selected remote learning. We are proud to state that as it stands right now, we tentatively plan on starting the school year with a full in-person model that follows social distancing and other required student and staff safety guidelines. We recognize that some families would prefer to keep their student(s) home, even with the school being able to accommodate in-person student attendance. For this reason, students may take advantage of a live remote learning option. We will provide a survey form to parents to indicate this selection. Please feel free to contact our building principals for additional details on the live remote learning opportunity. The COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding school district reopening requirements are dynamic, so we will be prepared to potentially start in a different model or perhaps even use a combination of models. We know that New York State will continuously monitor the situation and provide updated guidance, policies, and regulatory changes as this fluid situation requires.

Embedded in the reopening plan are a host of new preventive measures and procedures that will require all of us to work together. We are fortunate to have a more modern school building with larger classroom spaces. Using a square footage calculator provided by the NYSED, most of our rooms could potentially hold 20 or more students. We completed additional physical measurements and a schematic review for our classrooms. While we could potentially accommodate 20 students, we will use around 15 or less as our typical standard, out of an abundance of caution. In regards to our air filtration system, we have upgraded from MERV-8 filters to MERV-13 filters. MERV ratings are determined by a filter's effectiveness at

filtering particles of different sizes. The investment in **MERV-13 filters** is based on the guidance that this will improve our overall building air quality, and MERV-13 is recommended in decreasing the spread of viruses and bacteria growth. We will also be putting up **clear polycarbonate shield partitions** in locations like our school offices, cafeteria, and the library as precautionary measures.

To meet the health screening requirements, our students will have to be temperature checked at home. Parents will also have to acknowledge that their student(s) have no COVID-19 symptoms via a real-time app (Frontline) or other applicable communication channels. The health screening and temperature check must be completed before we can pick up students, or before they are dropped off at school. Although not required, we will have a **second round of temperature checks using thermal screening devices** for all students and staff upon arrival at school. Following NYSED and DOH guidelines, students will have to wear face coverings on the bus and throughout the school day except when they are in class, lunch, or other activities when they are safely socially distanced from classmates and teachers.

New for this school year, all of our students K-12 will be provided their own 1:1 computer device on the first day of school. We want to make sure our students get comfortable with their devices with teacher support, specifically if we are required to transition to a remote or hybrid model. If students do not have internet access at home, we will be working with families to explore and identify alternative options. These steps will help ensure educational equity among our students.

The CL Leadership Team would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all of our Reopening Committee members and our professional learning community for their valuable contributions that shaped our reopening plan. Please acknowledge and feel free to reach out with questions to any of the Reopening Committee members. In closing, as our knowledge of COVID-19 continues to evolve and revised guidelines and requirements are put forth our plan will be updated accordingly. We will work to inform our parents, students, and other members of our professional learning community with applicable updates in a timely manner. As we close in on the start of the upcoming school year we will all need to once again tap into our reserves of perseverance, flexibility, and resolve as COVID-19 continues to impact our daily lives. The return of students to our school campus will hopefully bring some degree of normalcy to all of our lives. The protocols and procedures presented in the Chautauqua Lake Reopening Plan are necessary aspects to help ensure we do everything we can to protect the health of our students and extended school community.

Respectfully, *Dr. Joshua Liddell*Superintendent

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful Chautauqua Lake Strong!