

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF LITTLE FALLS

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LITTLE FALLS, NEW YORK 13365

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March 24, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

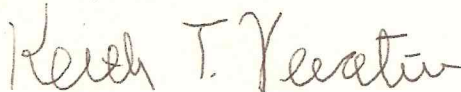
There have been many stories on the news recently about school districts, in Oneida and Onondaga Counties mostly, adopting the new CDC guidelines of having 3 feet between students. This has naturally led to questions and discussions about why our district has not made that change, which would allow more students to return to in-person learning.

It is important to understand that the CDC is a federal agency, and makes policy in the broader national sense. Schools are governed by the local Department of Health (DOH), which makes rules based on local conditions. Their guidance is based on several factors, two of which are the local rates of infection and the spread of the virus. There are other factors, such as the capacity of local medical facilities that are hard to compare between counties.

The fact that at least three separate districts in Herkimer County had to quarantine groups of students in the last two days is an indication that the pandemic is still with us, and still poses a threat. We have kept our students safe over the past year by following all guidelines from the DOH and the State Education Department, and we intend to keep doing so. The DOH has a challenging job, and we trust that they will issue updated guidance if and when appropriate.

Please know that bringing all our students back is our ultimate goal, and we will adapt as guidance changes. We will also continue to maintain the procedures in effect at the time to keep everyone in the school community safe.

Sincerely,



Keith T. Levatino, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools  
Little Falls City School District