



# WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Allendale\*Clinton\*Northwood\*West Elementary\*Winchester

August 2020

Dear West Seneca Elementary Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! We hope this letter finds you and your family well. Although we are not starting in a traditional manner this year, we are very excited to start this new school year. We would like to thank you in advance for your support, patience, and partnership during these unprecedented times as we re-imagine traditional instruction. Regardless of how we gather to teach, our values for children and education have not changed. No matter the distance, we still remain a community of learners.

## **What tools will my child be using to assist with virtual learning?**

All teachers have created a **Google Classroom** for students (and parents) to engage in learning. Every week, teachers will send a “**week-at-a glance**” message to families communicating the week’s expectations for learning. Teachers will post assignments to their Google Classroom on a regular basis. Students can communicate with their teachers through this platform, as well. Teachers will utilize the **Google Meet** feature to provide opportunities for whole group and small group instruction during the week. Additionally, many teachers will utilize **REMIND** as a tool to communicate with you.

## **If I have questions about learning activities, curriculum, technology, etc.?**

Teachers will provide you with a designated time every day (**Office Hours**) where you can communicate with them. Teachers will also utilize **REMIND**, phone calls, and e-mail as a means of communication.

## **How will my child and I sign up for Google Classroom and REMIND?**

You will receive a correspondence from your child’s teacher with specific directions and tutorials. You will be responsible for having a **working email account** to receive updated information; otherwise, you will not receive information from your child’s teacher, the building, or the district.

## **What will my child’s schedule look like on a daily/weekly basis?**

Please refer to the **Elementary Guide for Distance Learning (attached)**. Teachers will also send you a “week-at-a glance” schedule to provide you with more specifics. This will also include a schedule for specials such as Art, Music, and Physical Education.

**How will special area classes work such as Art, Physical Education, and Music?**

Each special area teacher will have a **Google Classroom** to provide students with opportunities for synchronous and asynchronous lessons. Your child’s teacher will provide you with a “special area” schedule on a weekly basis.

**Is daily attendance required?**

**Yes.** Teachers will plan a mandatory, **daily “check-in”** to Google Classroom. This will constitute your child’s daily attendance as required by NYS. This “check-in” will be as flexible as possible to accommodate family schedules.

The home/school connection is exceedingly important for your child’s academic success. *If your child does not “check-in” for three consecutive days, the school will contact you via a phone call.*

**What will grading look like at the elementary level?**

Our traditional **Standards Based Reports Card** (using the 1-4 scale) will be used for the 2020-2021 school year. Participation grades will be given for special areas (i.e. Physical Education, Art, and Music).

Thank you again for partnering with us to provide your child with enriching and meaningful educational opportunities. Your child’s teacher will be reaching out to you with more specific information related to daily schedules, resources, and materials.

Yours in education,

Dr. Holly Quinn  
Allendale Elementary

Mrs. Kimberly McCartan  
Clinton Elementary

Mrs. Angela Ferri  
Northwood Elementary

Mrs. Kristen Frawley  
West Elementary

Mrs. Robyn Brady  
Winchester Elementary