



**Phoenix Central School District**  
 District Office  
 116 Volney Street  
 Phoenix, New York 13135  
 Phone # (315) 695-1573  
 Fax# (315) 695-1201

**Karl J. Seckner**  
 Assistant Superintendent  
 of Finance and  
 Educational Services

**Nicole M. Covell**  
 Executive Director of  
 Instruction  
 and Personnel

**Christopher J. Byrne**  
 Superintendent of Schools

December 21, 2021

Good Afternoon Phoenix CSD Families, Staff and Students,

I hope this finds you and your families all doing well. As I reflect on the first four months of the 2021-2022 school year, I feel that it is important to thank the following people:

**Thank you Phoenix CSD faculty and staff!** You have done an incredible job during a very challenging time in education. You have put students first and you have made their education a priority. I am extremely appreciative of your efforts, focus and commitment to our students!!

**Thank you Phoenix CSD Families!** Thank you very much for your continued support of our school district and programs. Please know that your tremendous amount of support does not go unnoticed!!

Here are several important updates to keep you all informed:

• **COVID-19 Updates –**

- Our dashboard is updated daily and may be viewed anytime using the following link – <https://www.phoenixcsd.org/Page/4337> .
- NYS Governor Kathy Hochul announced Monday that New York set a new record Sunday for the highest single-day increase since the pandemic began, with 23,391 confirmed cases. She reminded everyone that, “The winter surge in COVID-19 cases is not over yet and we must take extra care to keep ourselves and each other safe.”
- It is unclear what January will look like for us in terms of COVID-19, but I do think it is very important to always think ahead. While we very much hope to continue with in-person learning, I **highly recommend** the following:
  - Families – please have a plan in place should the district or a building have to switch to remote learning for a period of time.
  - Faculty and Staff – please be prepared should the district or a building have to switch to remote learning for a period of time.

• **Stay Home When Sick and Get Tested –**

- Please be sure to monitor yourself / your children each day.
- Students and staff experiencing any of the following COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and be tested for COVID-19, this applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals:

Fever or Chills (100° F or more)	Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
Cough	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
Loss of taste or smell	Muscle pain or body aches
Fatigue / feeling of tiredness	Headaches
Sore throat	Nasal congestion / runny nose

- If you or a family member test positive for COVID-19, ***please notify me*** at 315- 695-1555 or [cbyrne@phoenixcsd.org](mailto:cbyrne@phoenixcsd.org), so that I can work with the Oswego County Health Department and plan our next steps (contact tracing, communications and / or programmatic changes).
  - Also, please be reminded that if a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, all unvaccinated household members should stay home until contacted by the health department.
  - Please continue to notify the district of positive cases in your family even over Christmas Recess. This is necessary for contact tracing (before break) and planning Temporary Homebound Instruction (after break).
- **Digital Equity Survey –**
    - To better serve students, families, and educators, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is conducting a Digital Equity Survey for all public school districts, charter schools, and BOCES across the state. The purpose of this survey is to understand and promote educational equity, including digital equity for all students in New York State. The data collected from this survey will also aid the Phoenix Central School District’s understanding and support of students and families within our district.
    - If you have not already done so please complete the Digital Equity Survey via the SchoolTool Parent Portal or request a paper copy from the Office of Data and Instructional Technology (315) 695-1549.
    - For more information, please see the attached document.
  - **Important Upcoming Dates -**
    - Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> - JCB Band / Chorus Concert – 7 p.m. ***The concert will also be livestreamed at → [www.phoenixcsd.org/live](http://www.phoenixcsd.org/live)***
    - Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – Christmas Recess – NO SCHOOL; school will resume on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I wish you and your families the very best over the Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

*Christopher J. Byrne*

Superintendent of Schools

 - @cbyrnepcsd

