

WHITEHALL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Whitehall – Birthplace of the U. S. Navy – www.railroaders.net

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Dear Parents, Students, Faculty and Staff,

September 17, 2020

As you are aware, Governor Cuomo had authorized low/moderate risk interscholastic athletics to begin on September 21st. Sports such as soccer, cross country and golf are considered low/moderate risk and would be allowed to begin. The high risk sports such as football, had been delayed until the "Fall 2" season, scheduled for early March.

Over the past few weeks, a great deal of discussion has taken place regarding interscholastic athletics and potential for the increased risk of exposure, and transmission of COVID-19, contact tracing, transportation, scheduling, and the safe management of sports. Also discussed has been how this potentially impacts the daily operation of our school districts and our ability to maintain a sound educational environment for students. In addition to these discussions, our district had to couple these concerns with the loss of our High School Facility for an unknown period of time.

Last night the Adirondack League conducted a vote on whether or not to carry out fall sports. The results of the final vote of league schools determined that the Adirondack League will not be participating in fall athletics at this time. The option to play in the NYSPHSAA "fall 2" season from March 1st, 2021-May 8th, 2021 is still available for our fall student/athletes. League districts will monitor it again once we get closer to this date and make determinations based on student safety. The Whitehall CSD supports and will follow decision made by the league.

I fully understand how difficult this news is to hear; especially for our student athletes. Please understand that the district has not cancelled athletics for the year. Each season will be considered individually and we will continue to engage in discussions and explore how we can provide opportunities for our students.



Patrick Dee

Superintendent of schools