



Message from the Superintendent Marianne Litzman

Dear School Community,

One thing the emergence of a global pandemic has made abundantly clear to all of us is the necessity to traverse a wide chasm of constant change.

Our opening of school this September will not be where we ended up last June. The chasm of change driven by the Pandemic widened over the summer. One thing we have learned and know for certain is that whatever we do will not satisfy all parties. However, we have heard all voices who shared their thoughts with us, either in person at public meetings, online during live streamed meetings, in letters sent to me and the Board of Education and in answering a survey. All voices are important and we are grateful for the opportunity to hear all sides.

Our Board of Education has accepted and approved the District Opening Plan for the full return of students on **September 1, 2021**. The plan was based upon guidance from the Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the New York State Education Department, and the Nassau County Department of Health and soon to come directives from Governor Hochul.

The District Opening Plan is a living document as we know we will have to react to changes in the Pandemic which are sure to come; could be better, could be worse. As a living document, we will return to discuss the plan as the landscape changes. Our priority is the safe return of all students. We will open our school house doors on September 1, 2021 to all students for in-person instruction. We are planning for a spectacular September.

Please see highlights of the plan below:

- Full In-Person Instruction for all students September 1, 2021
- All buildings open with regular daily schedule
- Universal masking indoors for all students and staff
- Mask breaks will be required
- Mask required on school buses
- No masks required outdoors
- Social distancing of 3 feet in all buildings
- No completion of health app or daily temperature taking
- Visitors will complete a health screening, have temperature taken and mask required
- COVID desk shields have been removed
- Contact tracing protocols remain in place
- Quarantined students will have access to remote, asynchronous learning
- All breakfast and lunch meals are free for all students
- Families should still complete free and reduced lunch applications
- Elementary playgrounds will be open for student use



- Athletics is returning to usual schedule
- No field trips for September
- Public events in September to be evaluated
- All existing 504 Plans remain in effect
- A Parent/Guardian with a health concern for their child regarding return to school may write a letter with documentation from the child's healthcare provider either to the building principal or Ms. Mishiev. School personnel will contact each parent/guardian for next steps
- All usual extra-curricular activities will be available to students
- Building principals will provide information particular to their school for Back to School
- The full opening plan follows

Should you have further questions about your child's school, day, please call your building principal.

We are all looking forward to welcoming your children back to school in a safe manner but more importantly with our hearts as our students learn best in school, with their teachers and administrators.

I am grateful for the thoughts shared with us by many members of our school community and look forward, walking together in gratitude and unity, supporting each other and our children.

I wish to thank the Board of Education for countless hours of deep thought and contributions in considering the District Opening Plan. We are all in this together and will continue to work together as we provide support for all our children who are trying to grow up in a Pandemic and will look to adults to help them navigate through difficult times. I am looking forward with hope and believe we shall overcome and provide an education for children in meeting their potential.

Sincerely yours,

Marianne Litzman
Superintendent of Schools