**Instruction Committee Progress Report, July 28, 2020**

* Overview of evolving guidance, developments around the country and among other Westchester districts, issues that are being raised in the other working committees
* We won’t know until next week, at the earliest, whether Governor Cuomo will allow any in-person instruction in New York schools
  + In the meantime, districts are required to post plans for reopening -- including for 100% in-person, 100% remote, and hybrid instruction models -- on July 31.
  + We could do 100% in-person **only if all** of the current health guidelines -- social distancing, etc. -- were rescinded.
  + Therefore, the focus of this committee has been planning for 100% remote and hybrid models.
* **100% Remote Model**
  + Each school would follow a regular school day (Wednesday schedule)
  + 60 minutes at the end of each day for teachers to
    - meet with students individually
    - work with small groups of students
    - work on planning and collaboration
    - respond to parent inquiries
  + One day per week will be “flexible teaching day”, to be used for:
    - small group instruction
    - T-periods
    - related services
    - SEL initiatives
    - limited in-person meetings if allowed by state guidance
  + We must be ready to switch to 100% remote model even if we start the year in another model
    - This would not be surprising given current trends
    - This must be taken into account when we think about hybrid options -- which hybrid models will facilitate a seamless switch to 100% remote if and when we must do that.
  + Remote model would look very different than what was used last spring
    - Teachers have had time to plan, participate in professional development
    - Much more time devoted to direct live interaction between teachers and students
      * MS/HS: follow current Wednesday bell schedule
      * Springhurst: roughly 180 minutes of daily learning facilitated by a teacher or staff member
* **Hybrid Models**
  + After taking into account the unique academic, social emotional, facilities, health, safety and other needs of all of our students and staff, the committee concluded that **each building should have its own differentiated hybrid model**
  + **High School Student Choice Hybrid Model**
    - HS building will be open to students 5 days per week
    - HS teachers will be in the building 5 days per week
    - Students will meet in person with their teachers either one-on-one or in small groups throughout each week.
    - Majority of core instruction takes place off site 4 days per week
      * Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
      * Students follow regular Wednesday bell schedule
    - **Phased-in approach** in which all students will meet in person with all of their teachers during the first several weeks of school to launch the school year prior to transitioning to off-site.
    - **In-person transitioning program for all 9th grade students**
    - Students choose when and how often to come to the HS building for **in-person** experiences (with numbers being controlled by online sign-up applications), such as:
      * Attending some core academic classes in person
      * Small-group or individual T-periods
      * Small-group or individual meetings with counselors
      * “Hands-on” electives, including Science Research, Yearbook, Computer Science, Film, Theory of Knowledge, IB Personal Project
      * Arts and music
      * Science labs
      * Co-curricular club meetings
      * “Floating flex day” -- daily department in-person support
      * Special Ed and Related Services
      * ENL support
      * Science labs
      * Lunchtime speaker series
    - Wednesday is “flex day” for activities such as Phys Ed/Fitness, SEL activities, counseling groups, T-periods
    - Student participation in on-campus activities will be monitored by the Assistant Principal, the Dean of Students, the counseling team, and teachers to ensure equity of access across the student body
    - **Benefits of this hybrid schedule for high school students**:
      * Provides adequate synchronous instructional time to handle the curriculum of high school courses
      * Prioritizes student choice and student agency, allowing students to decide what they want to come to school for and whom they want to see
      * Creates flexibility for teachers and counselors so that blend of in-person and remote experiences can be customized based on student need
  + **Middle School A/B/A/B Hybrid Model**
    - All students will be at school for in-person learning two days per week
    - Students will be divided into 2 groups:
      * Group 1 attends on Monday/Thursday
      * Group 2 attends on Tuesday/Friday.
    - On in-person days, students follow regular Wednesday bell schedule
    - To allow for cleaning of classrooms, students will be cohorted for several classes and will remain in the same room while teachers rotate to them
    - When a change of classrooms is required for students, students will move to an empty room that has already been cleaned and the room they leave will remain empty and be cleaned.
    - When not on campus, students will complete individual assignments and learning opportunities posted to Google Classroom
    - Additional AIS/Related Services for off-campus days as necessary
    - Wednesdays will be designated as a “Flex” day and students will not be in the building, providing opportunities for teachers to:
      * provide related and academic intervention services
      * meet with students individually and/or in small groups
      * collaborate with colleagues and plan instruction
      * respond to parent inquiries
    - **Benefits of this hybrid schedule for middle school students:**
      * Provides a regular and easily understandable structured schedule, with all students following a fully-scheduled day 2 days per week
      * No more than 3 days in a row between in-person days for students
      * Allows ample time for counseling, small-group work, and individual attention based on student need
  + **Springhurst AM/PM Hybrid Model**
    - All students will be at school for in-person learning 4 days per week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)
      * Group A: mornings in person for 2 ¼ hours
      * Group B: afternoons in person for 2 ¼ hours
    - Instruction during in-person hours will cover the following, every day: ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and SEL
    - Instruction during remote hours will cover at least one of the following subjects each day: Phys Ed, Art, Music, Technology, Library and/or FLES (grades 2-5) and band or orchestra (if applicable)
    - Wednesdays will be designated as a “Flex” day and students will not be in the building, providing opportunities for teachers to:
      * provide related and academic intervention services
      * meet with students individually and/or in small groups
      * collaborate with colleagues and plan instruction
      * respond to parent inquiries
    - Bus transportation provided for students attending both AM and PM
    - AIS/Related Services will be provided during the off-campus portion of the student day
    - ENL Services will be in-person push-in and/or virtual as scheduling allows
    - OT/PT will be in-person push-in and/or virtual as scheduling allows
    - Speech/Counseling will be in-person push-in and/or virtual as scheduling allows
    - **Benefits of this hybrid schedule for Springhurst students:**
      * Allows our youngest students to see their teachers in person for as many days per week as possible
      * Provides a predictable and easily understandable routine for our youngest students
      * Uses remote instruction for activities that are often more engaging and accessible, while using in-person instruction for core academic areas
  + For students in all 3 schools, in all 3 hybrid models, breakfast and lunch will be available for all students
* **Issues that remain unresolved at this point**:
  + Whether all districts will be required to offer a fully remote option for all students who choose that, regardless of whether they are medically vulnerable; as of the last parent survey, roughly 20% of our parents indicated they would choose this if it were an option
  + How many of our teachers will be asking to not teach in person because they are medically vulnerable
  + Whether Governor Cuomo will direct school districts as to which scenario (remote, hybrid, or in-person) they must choose or leave that decision to individual districts
  + When Governor Cuomo will announce his decision on reopening schools
* Each school team will continue to develop details related to all of their plans
* School-specific parent forums will be scheduled to explain details and address parent questions