**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 -- were rescinded.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