



Parent/Community Meeting Reopening Our Schools

Monday, March 8, 2021



New Information

January 5, 2021 - American Academy of Pediatrics updated school guidance data and latest research, recommending 3-6 feet distancing.

January 26, 2021 - CDC released a report in support of schools reopening with proper mitigation efforts in place. This included support for classrooms with 3 feet of distancing allowed with 6 feet being optimal

February 2021 - NYSDOH confirms support for 3 feet distancing or distance to greatest extent possible with barriers and masks.

Important to know

Long Island schools have been in school full-time since the fall using less than 6 feet, barriers and masks. Transmission rates and infection rates have been no greater than our rates in Dobbs Ferry and other Rivertown schools.

Dobbs Ferry and Westchester County community transmission rates are low and our school transmission rates have been zero.

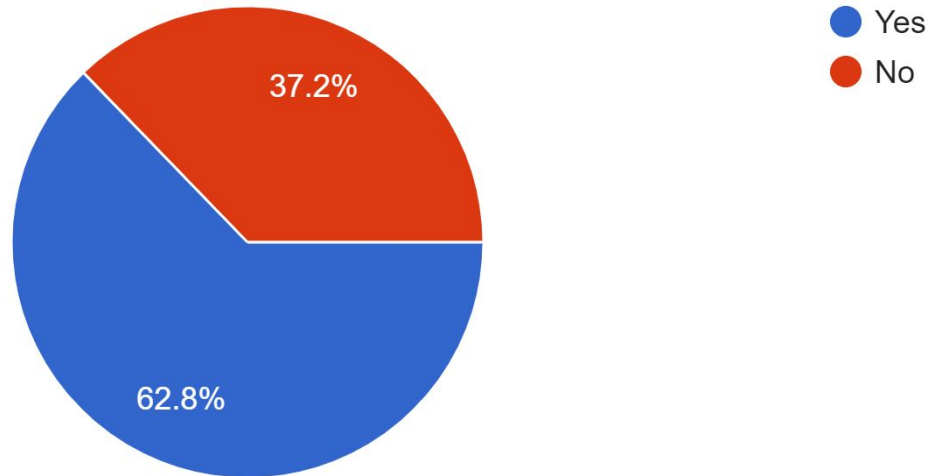
Community/school outbreaks have been linked to social and out of school events.

We believe that we can bring students and staff back to our schools safely.

Staff Vaccinations (as of March 1st)

Have you already received either your first or second dose of the Covid 19 vaccination?

196 responses



Focus on the Long Game - Why Now?

We anticipate that what our schools will look like in April will be substantially the same in September. School as we know it will not be totally “back to normal” by the beginning of next year.

By going back now:

- Being in school is better for children - academics and mental health
- We reorient kids and ourselves to full-time school
- We work out the operational kinks prior to opening in September
- We get a handle on learning needs and SEL issues and begin to mitigate as soon as possible
- We believe that we can bring students and staff back safely within new guidelines

Remote Only Option

We will continue to offer a remote only option for the remainder of the school year for families who do not want to send their children back to school full-time. This may look somewhat different than what we are doing currently but by and large - yes, it will provide the same hours of instruction as in-person learners. Principals will be communicating with parents by mid-week about how remote only options will look. We remain committed to a high-quality remote option for our students.

Parents will have one last opportunity to move in or out of the remote only option. Survey will be available at the end of this week once information about any changes to the remote only options are shared.

We have no idea whether SED will continue to mandate remote learning options next year.

Dobbs Ferry Return to 5 day/In-Person Instruction

Target Date - Monday, April 12th

School Hours

MS/HS - 8:12 - 2:20 (To support Remote Only Learners, students on quarantine and allow for small group support)

Springhurst K - 2 - 8:00 - 3:00 (regular Wednesday dismissal)

Springhurst 3-5 - 8:35 - 3:35 (regular Wednesday dismissal)

Teacher/Staff Planning Days - April 6 and 7 (non-instructional days for students. All staff report in-person) CSE meetings will go on as scheduled.

Safety/Mitigation Strategies

Masks will continue to be required at all times inside the buildings and outside except for mask breaks.

Distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent possible.

Tri-fold desk shield/barriers for each student on desks.

Air purifiers in every classroom.

Open windows as much as possible. Outside spaces utilized as often as possible.

Distancing between teacher and student in front of classrooms.

Surveillance testing for students being investigated.

Important Considerations

NYSDOH has still not modified 6 feet **quarantine** guidelines but this may be modified in the near future.

Using outside spaces is being worked on for MS/HS campus with tables and chairs being set up outside and in the courtyard. HS students mostly go off-campus. Springhurst will eat inside but split up in the cafeteria and gymnasium with students distanced at 6 feet apart.

Related Services scheduling will provide for required IEP and 504 obligations

Recess will be an important part of both Springhurst and MS experience.

Will be held **outside** except if weather does not permit. In the case of inclement weather, Springhurst recess will then be held in classrooms with a fun health/wellness activity as opposed to physical activity.

Band/Orchestra/Chorus and PE still needs to be figured out but meeting with other Westchester schools to share strategies. Outside spaces are being considered.

Transportation at Springhurst will have limited social distancing with 2 students per seat. We will survey parents about their intentions related to transportation but it would be helpful if we could limit students taking the bus to the greatest degree possible.

Parent Feedback - Top of Mind

Lunch? Can kids eat outside as much as possible?

Are the staff willing to be vaccinated?

What will recess look like?

What about specials? Can they be outside?

Will there still be a remote option?

What are the hours for regular school?

What about Wednesdays?

Will there be options for after school?

Will there be transportation and how will that look?

Will kids have to give computers back if they are socioeconomically disadvantaged?

Parent Feedback - Top of Mind

Will there be SEL and community building when kids return to school?

What about co-curriculars at the MS like chorus and modified sports?

What about orchestra and other instruments - has the guidance changed?

Can kids participate in physical education?

Will T-periods be in-person or remote?

Childcare

Will students on quarantine be able to livestream into classes? What is the current length of DOH quarantine.

Travel - Spring Break

For any traveler to New York State from a non contiguous state, US territory or CDC level 2 and higher country, the new guidelines for travelers to test-out of the mandatory 10-day quarantine are below:

- For travelers who were out-of-state for more than 24 hours:
 - Travelers must obtain a test within three days of departure, prior to arrival in New York.
 - The traveler must, upon arrival in New York, quarantine for three days.
 - On day 4 of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain another COVID test. If both tests comes back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test.
- If not testing out - 10 day quarantine for travel
- New York recently eased travel restrictions for vaccinated visitors, allowing them to skip the state's quarantine and testing requirements.
- The new rule, which applies to domestic travel only, will waive all quarantine and testing protocols for those who have been fully vaccinated within 90 days of their trip,

Next Steps

Remote/In Person Learning Survey - will be sent at end of the week

Building-Level Communication - may receive something as early as tomorrow. Remote Only information will be sent no later than Thursday

Building-Level Decision Making - ongoing and regular communication in the days ahead.

Questions

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