

Letter from Superintendent

Important Updates

August 16, 2020

Dear Dobbs Ferry Parents,

We understand that a lot of important information was shared with you this past week, and it may feel a little overwhelming. I thought it would help to follow up with an explanation of the many resources that are available on our [Reopening Dobbs Ferry Schools website](#), in case you missed the presentations or want to spend some more time looking over the details.

New York State Travel Advisory

Before I get into those resources, I want to make sure everyone is aware that [New York State has issued a travel advisory](#) for anyone travelling into New York from one of the 33 states that have a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19. If your child will be in any of those 33 states, your child must quarantine for 14 days from the time they return to New York before they will be allowed to come to school. With the first day of school scheduled for September 8, that means that **if you will be travelling to any of those 33 states you must return from travel no later than August 22 and begin to quarantine if your child is planning to attend school through any of the Hybrid models.**

Summary of Learning Models

We have posted short summaries of the most important details of each potential learning model at each school. (Click the “Our Plan” tab on the Reopening website and choose “Summary of Learning Models” in the dropdown menu.). These include:

- [100% Remote Learning Scenario](#): This is what we would be doing if the District is directed to close schools and offer ONLY remote learning for ALL STUDENTS.
- [Hybrid Learning Scenario](#): This is what we would be doing if the district is permitted to open schools but must follow health and safety guidelines limiting the number of students who can attend in person at one time.
- [Parent Choice 100% Remote Learning Option](#): This is for students whose parents have chosen remote-only learning while the district is permitted to open schools.

Summary of Health, Safety & Facilities Information

We have posted a summary of the main [Health, Safety, and Facilities Information](#) that we think parents are likely to be interested in. This includes information about face coverings, social distancing, pre-screening, visitor management, what happens if someone in school exhibits symptoms, cleaning protocols, ventilation, and much more. (Click the “Our Plan” tab on the Reopening website and choose “Health, Safety & Facilities Summary” in the dropdown menu.)

Information about COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing

Pursuant to a requirement issued by Governor Cuomo this week, we have posted separate information about the procedures that we will be following for [COVID-19 testing](#) and for [contact](#)

[tracing](#). These can be found by clicking the “Our Plan” tab on the Reopening website and choosing those items in the dropdown menu.

School-Specific Parent Forums

Videos of each school-specific virtual parent forum from last week are posted on the home page of the [Reopening Dobbs Ferry Schools website](#), under “Featured Videos.” Underneath each video is a link to the presentation slides used during the forum.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We are working to post several sets of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to the Reopening Dobbs Ferry Schools website as quickly as possible. Please click on the “Updates and FAQ’s” tab on the website and select “FAQ’s” from the dropdown menu. Currently you will find:

- [Dobbs Ferry High School FAQ](#)
- [Health & Safety FAQ](#)

Springhurst and Dobbs Ferry Middle School FAQs will be posted soon.

Decision About Parent-Choice Remote Learning Option

Springhurst

Springhurst parents must complete the REQUIRED enrollment survey before tonight’s due date (Sunday, August 16th by midnight).

We need to know:

- (1) whether each of your children will be attending school in person with the Hybrid model or will be staying home and learning remotely with the Parent Choice 100% Remote option,
- (2) whether your children will be taking the bus,
- (3) whether you are interested in enrolling your children in childcare provided by the Springhurst Children’s Center (which will be off site this year and is not run by the District), and
- (4) whether your children will be participating in the school meal program.

In the meantime, we also want to help clarify some uncertainty parents are having in regards to whether their survey decisions are binding. Yes, we need this information for our planning right away so the decision is meant to be final. Our best advice is, if you are really conflicted or confused about the hybrid vs. parent choice remote learning model, then you might want to consider initially signing up for the “in-school” option. We are putting together cohorts of students who will be in the buildings together as groups beginning in September. It is much easier for us to accommodate a request to opt-out and take a child out of a cohort, rather than adding a new child in. This decision is for the first semester so you will be asked to choose your preference again for the period beginning on November 2.

Dobbs Ferry Middle School

A similar **REQUIRED** enrollment survey was sent to Middle School parents earlier today. Responses are due by **Thursday, August 20th** at midnight.

Finally, a reminder that the **Health & Safety Parent Forum will be held this coming Thursday August 20th at 6:00pm**. You will be receiving meeting information and a link to the Livestream closer to the date. Please review the [Health & Safety Summary](#) and [FAQ](#) prior to the meeting to see if your questions are reflected there. We developed the FAQ based on questions that parents have already sent in to us. The presentation on Thursday will be a Livestream only.

With September 8th around the corner, our teachers, administration and Board of Education are working non-stop to make sure we have everything in place to provide an engaging academic program for students, and a safe, successful school opening for everyone. We know this is a difficult and stressful time for our entire community and we appreciate your continued support and patience.

Sincerely,

Lisa Brady, Ed.D.
Superintendent