

July 31, 2020

Dear Community Member,

Last night I submitted our initial plans for school reopening to the New York State Education Department. These plans accounted for three different scenarios that could play out over the course of the school year, which include having all students back on campus, all students remaining at home, and a hybrid approach with a cross section of students on campus each day.

Next week Governor Cuomo is expected to make an announcement regarding the reopening of schools. While the Governor previously referred to the metrics that will be utilized to guide his decision, I am wary that continued issues with the spread of COVID-19 throughout our country will also be a significant factor in any determination that is made.

All this being said, I will be meeting with our Board of Education next Tuesday to share our more specific plans for the opening of schools in September. Through the work of the administrative team and the Reopening Task Force, I determined that the best approach for Haldane's opening is:

- All K-8 students will attend classes on campus every day.
- High school students will be divided into two cohorts and will rotate between attending classes on campus and participating virtually.
- The first day of in-person school may vary by grade as we re-introduce students to campus with a "phase-in" approach through the first week of school.

Please note that the reopening of schools continues to be a dynamic situation. Our decisions regarding school openings and closures could change at any point given the situations that we may encounter in our community. The health and safety of our students and staff remain at the fore of our planning efforts.

Sincerely,
Phil Benante, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools