

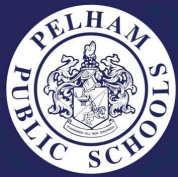
# Pelham Public Schools

## In-Person Learning in the Pelham Public Schools

Dr. Cheryl Champ,  
Superintendent of Schools

March 10, 2021

*Developing empowered, adaptable, well-balanced individuals who are  
equipped to meaningfully contribute to society*



# Priorities in Reopening Schools

- **Priorities in Reopening Schools**
  - Holistic health and safety of students
  - Holistic health and safety of staff
  - Quality delivery of core curriculum in an equitable manner
  - Alignment with requirements, guidelines, and most recent scientific research



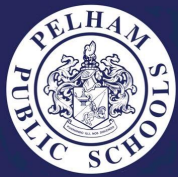
# Planning Meetings

- Administration has met numerous times to discuss logistics and priorities
  - Determining spacing in classrooms
  - Considering building-level logistics
- Reopening Advisory Task Force Meetings
  - Opportunity to hear from medical professionals, teachers and parents
  - Continue to meet for at least next few weeks



# Key Questions

- What is the updated research on distancing?
- How do we solve logistical challenges (classroom space, lunch, schedule, etc.)?
- What additional mitigation strategies are needed?
- What metrics will guide decision making?
- What is an implementation timeline that makes sense for Pelham?
- How can we continue to support fully virtual students?



# Key Learnings

- NYSDOH Guidance calls for 6 feet OR mask/barrier
- Some research shows relatively small difference in risk between 6 and 3 feet distance for people with low risk health
- Schools on LI and other parts of the state have been using 3 feet distance successfully
- Barriers provide a visible reminder to distance and make people feel safer



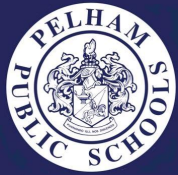
# FTIP Plan Proposal

- **Elementary** schools will begin FTIP instruction for grades **K-5** on **April 12**
  - Protects against post vacation “bump” in cases
  - Allows for more staff to be fully vaccinated
  - Warmer weather for better use of outdoor space
  - Allows time for furniture set up and equipment distribution
- **PMHS/PMS** will begin **phase in** during **April** dependent upon further assessment of capacity



# FTIP at the Elementary Level





# Mitigation Strategies

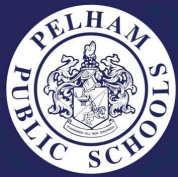
- Students will be spaced 3-feet apart in classrooms
- Air purifiers & box fans (exhaust) purchased for every classroom to improve ventilation (current air cycles 7-8 times per hour)
- Masks and portable barriers will continue to be used
- Windows open and outdoor use as much as possible
- Vaccination rate of at least 50% of all staff by spring break
- Surveillance Testing Program - baseline and monitoring





# Surveillance Testing

- Goal 20% monthly district-wide
- All in person students expected to participate in this non-invasive program
- Data/positivity rate helps establish a baseline for our schools
- Testing will help to assess whether there is increased prevalence after increased density in classrooms
- For this to work, **we need everyone's partnership**



# Elementary Schedule

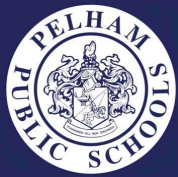
## Beginning April 12:

- 8:30am - Staggered arrival
- 11:15am -12:15am: Lunch
- 2:40 Staggered dismissal
- 2:50pm: Open office hours
- School specific schedules will be forthcoming
- 12pm early release on Wednesdays continued



# Lunch

- Generally, elementary students will continue to eat in their classroom at 3 ft. distance with barriers
- Dependent on spacing, ½ class may need to eat first while other ½ keeps masks on, then switch.
- Some schools may utilize larger spaces if feasible



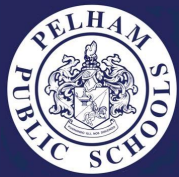
# FTIP Attendance Expectations

- Students selecting FTIP are expected to attend in person every day
- When students are sick they should stay home and recuperate (excused absence) and must have a negative COVID-19 test upon return
- Virtual learning can be accessed only during mandated quarantine or when awaiting test results to pass daily screener
- Virtual learning cannot be accessed for situations such as vacation, travel, staying home on test days, etc.



# Fully Remote Learning

- Families may still choose fully remote learning for children
- Students will access classes via Google Meet and learning materials via Google Classroom
- Open office hours in the afternoon to provide supports for fully remote students
- Additional supports being considered for schools with a significant number of virtual students
- Possibility of fully remote teachers K-5 in September if virtual learning is still required



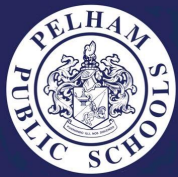
# In Person vs. Fully Virtual Commitment

- District must have a firm commitment from families whether children will be In Person or Fully Virtual
- Commitment is critical for planning of space
- Important for teachers to know who will be in their classroom each day
- Everyone's decisions have consequences for other people
- Program selection survey to be sent out March 12, **responses due at noon on March 17**
- Family Info Sessions on Thursday, March 11 at 9:30am & 7pm



# In Person at the Secondary Level

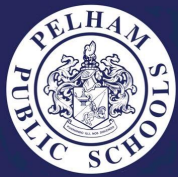




# Similarities with K-5 Model

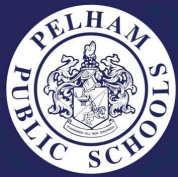
- Mitigation Strategies same as at elementary schools (3-foot distancing, masks/barriers, air purifiers, box fans, etc.)
- Surveillance testing critical
- Students expected to attend school when scheduled to be in-person
- Continuation of Fully Remote Model





# Challenges at PMHS/PMS

- Small classrooms (50-65% cannot achieve 3 feet distance at 100% capacity)
- Room utilization is maxed out, little flexibility
- Shared cafeteria space does not seat all students
- Shared gyms being used as overflow for lunch
- Additional space needed for lunch during inclement weather
- Significant number of students staying home on in person days
- **Need more definitive data on who will be returning to finalize a plan (66%? 75%? 80? 100%?)**



# Proposed Phase in Order

- Grades 8 & 12
- Grades 6 & 9
- Grades 7, 11 & 10
  - Note-hybrid students will continue to attend as in person grades are phased in
- Establishing metrics to monitor phase-in



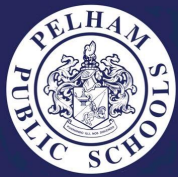
# Proposed PMS/PMHS Schedule

- 1st period start - 8:15am
- 9th period end - 2:46pm
- Academy 2:51-3:11 (in person/virtual)
- 5 minute passing time between classes to reduce hallway density
- 12pm early release on Wednesdays continued



# In Person vs. Fully Virtual Commitment

- District must have a firm commitment from families whether children will be In Person or Fully Virtual
- Commitment is critical for understanding how many students can return at one time
- Everyone's decisions have consequences for other people
- Program selection survey to be sent out March 12, **responses due at noon on March 17**



# It Takes a Community

- Attend March 11: Family Info Sessions, 9:30am & 7pm
- **Return commitment survey by March 17**
- You can help by:
  - Sending your children in for surveillance testing
  - Keeping them home when they are ill
  - Continue wearing masks and physical distancing outside of school
  - Avoiding large social gatherings
  - Adhere to [Family Health Agreement](#)