

October 7, 2021

Dear North Mianus Families and Staff:

For those of you who were able to attend the North Mianus PTA meeting on Tuesday evening, thank you for asking such great questions. The meeting was recorded, so if you missed it, you can watch NMS PTA's [Ask the Administrator in its entirety on our website](#).

The construction project is on time right now and is progressing well. The old ceilings have been taken down and new metal grids are going up. The rooms are beginning to look like they are back together. But there are several construction tasks that still must happen before the building will be ready for occupancy.

Once the rooms are finished, new paint, millwork completed, HVAC installed in some of the older parts of the lower level, and the fire suppression system for the older area will need to be reconnected, the project will then need to pass numerous inspections from the Building Department, Fire Department, and more.

As a reminder, North Mianus School suffered extensive damage in February 2021 due to a Saturday-morning ceiling failure that fell onto sprinklers leading to flooding, affecting 14 classrooms, five restrooms, media center, computer laboratory, staff lounge, health suite, art room, an office suite, and two staff offices.



Pictured: The top two images were taken in February 2021 shortly after the ceiling collapse, while the bottom two images were taken recently of some of the great construction work being done.

Many great questions from the PTA meeting were concerning the move from the Stamford campus back to the main campus. Some of the questions and answers are noted below:

1. Will the staff and students be able to utilize a remote day or two in order to have some time for moving?

Unfortunately, no. Remote learning is not an option this year unless there is district-required quarantine. This type of building emergency does not qualify for remote learning per the Connecticut State Department of Education. We did inquire about building emergencies after some recent storms in the area and the direction was very clear that building emergencies do not qualify. That opinion was a legal opinion from the CSDE attorney.

2. How will the District conduct the move?

It is too early right now to make that decision because there are numerous factors which must be considered. The certificate of occupancy must be granted before the older section of the building can be utilized for school again. The Town of Greenwich staff work closely with the GPS Facilities team and everybody understands the urgency.

It is possible that GPS could move one grade level at a time, or one floor at a time. The move is a large one, and a moving company will be hired to assist the District so that it can be done as quickly as possible. We will also try to utilize evenings and weekends as much as possible. It is also likely that we could have an early release one Friday and a late start the following Monday to provide more time for moving. As we approach November, we will know more about where we are in the process and begin to make more definite plans.

On behalf of our entire team at the GPS Central Office, I want to thank all of our families for their understanding and patience during this time. A special thank you to Principal Schmidt, Assistant Principal Ramirez, and their entire staff at both campuses who have been full of energy and positivity, while demonstrating teamwork at the highest level.

Dr. Toni Jones
Superintendent of Schools