

August 27, 2022

Dear Haldane Community,

On behalf of the Haldane community, we look forward to the return of students to campus on Thursday, September 1! Please find some important information below for reference as you begin the school year.

### **District Priorities**

This school year we will continue our long range campus planning which will culminate in a campus master plan. I look forward to bringing this process to closure mid-year, at which time our discussion will shift to what facilities improvements should be presented to the community for consideration in the near future, and at what cost.

Thank you to the many families, students and staff who completed the school climate and engagement survey prior to the end of the year. We are in the process of establishing 2-3 actions to help guide improvements in school climate and I look forward to sharing these with you soon.

### **COVID**

Please refer to the attached NYS Department of Health document with important information related to Covid for the start of the school year. Haldane will no longer offer remote learning for students who are out of school due to illness this year and will return to pre-Covid measures for students to make up missed class work due to illness.

### **Safety and Security**

Deputy Tolve will return this year as our School Resource Officer. Our district will continue to work with the Altaris Consulting Group on matters related to safety and security. Later this fall we will host an informational session for families to help them understand our safety and security processes as well as to hear feedback to help improve safety and security on campus.

### **Athletics**

The fall athletics season is underway and I know that our student athletes are excited to compete in the weeks ahead. The fall athletics schedule can be accessed [here](#). John Bauerlein will serve as our Interim Director of Athletics through this school year and can be contacted at [jbauerlein@haldaneschool.org](mailto:jbauerlein@haldaneschool.org).

### **District Calendar**

As a reminder the school district calendar can be accessed [here](#).

In the coming days our building principals will be sharing specific information with families about the opening of school. I look forward to seeing you next week.

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

Estimada comunidad Haldane,

¡En nombre de la comunidad de Haldane, esperamos el regreso de los estudiantes al campus el jueves 1 de septiembre! Encuentre información importante a continuación para referencia al comenzar el año escolar.

#### Prioridades del Distrito

Este año escolar continuaremos con nuestra planificación del campus a largo plazo que culminará en un plan maestro del campus. Espero cerrar este proceso a mediados de año, momento en el que nuestra discusión cambiará a qué mejoras en las instalaciones se deben presentar a la comunidad para su consideración en el futuro cercano, ya qué costo.

Gracias a las muchas familias, estudiantes y personal que completaron la encuesta sobre el clima escolar y la participación antes de fin de año. Estamos en el proceso de establecer 2-3 acciones para ayudar a guiar las mejoras en el clima escolar y espero poder compartirlas con ustedes pronto.

#### COVID-19

Consulte el documento adjunto del Departamento de Salud del Estado de Nueva York con información importante relacionada con Covid para el inicio del año escolar. Haldane ya no ofrecerá aprendizaje remoto para los estudiantes que no asisten a la escuela debido a una enfermedad este año y volverá a las medidas anteriores a Covid para que los estudiantes recuperen el trabajo de clase perdido debido a una enfermedad.

#### Seguridad y protección

El Diputado Tolve regresará este año como nuestro Oficial de Recursos Escolares. Nuestro distrito continuará trabajando con Altaris Consulting Group en asuntos relacionados con la seguridad y la protección. Más adelante este otoño, organizaremos una sesión informativa para familias para ayudarlas a comprender nuestros procesos de seguridad y protección, así como para escuchar comentarios para ayudar a mejorar la seguridad y la protección en el campus.

#### Atletismo

La temporada atlética de otoño está en marcha y sé que nuestros estudiantes atletas están emocionados de competir en las próximas semanas. El calendario de atletismo de otoño se puede acceder aquí. John Bauerlein servirá como nuestro Director Interino de Atletismo durante este año escolar y puede ser contactado en [jbauerlein@haldaneschool.org](mailto:jbauerlein@haldaneschool.org).

#### Calendario del Distrito

Como recordatorio, se puede acceder al calendario del distrito escolar aquí.

En los próximos días, los directores de nuestros edificios compartirán información específica con las familias sobre la apertura de la escuela. Espero verte la próxima semana.

Sinceramente,  
Phil Benante, Ed. D.

superintendente de escuelas



## What Parents/Caregivers Should Know about COVID Mitigation Strategies for the 2022-2023 School Year

On August 11, 2022, the CDC released an updated [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#). The New York State Department of Health and New York State Education Department jointly encourage all schools to utilize the CDC guidance as they plan for the 2022-2023 school year. This guidance from the CDC represents the most up to date COVID-19 mitigation strategies for the K-12 setting while considering [COVID-19 Community Levels](#). Schools may choose to layer prevention strategies based on CDC guidance if necessary when considering local community [COVID-19 levels](#) and the specific needs of their school community. They are encouraged to consult with their local health departments (LHDs) on COVID-19 mitigation strategies. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to communicate with school administrators if they have any questions about the COVID-19 mitigation strategies being utilized at the school. Below you will find a summary of the CDC Operational Guidance.

### **Vaccination**

- Staying up to date on vaccinations is essential to prevent people from getting severely ill with COVID-19. Children ages 6 months and older are all eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Children over five years are eligible for a booster. Additional information may be found at [ny.gov/vaxtoschool](https://ny.gov/vaxtoschool).

### **Quarantine**

- The CDC no longer recommends quarantine except in high-risk congregate settings, such as nursing homes. The CDC does not generally consider schools to be high-risk congregate settings. The CDC recommends that all people with a known or suspected COVID-19 exposure regardless of vaccination status or history of prior COVID-19 infection follow [current CDC exposure recommendations](#) which include 1) wearing a [well-fitting mask](#) or respirator for a full 10-day period, 2) getting tested at least 5 days after close contact or sooner if [symptoms](#) develop.

### **Staying Home When Sick/Symptomatic**

- The CDC continues to recommend that people stay home when sick. Any student or staff member who has symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home.
- Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after [symptoms](#) begin. Those who are [at risk for getting very sick](#) with COVID-19 who test positive should consult with a healthcare provider right away for possible treatment, even if their symptoms are mild. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 and does not have a regular health care provider, evaluation for treatment can be obtained by either calling 1-888-TREAT-NY or visiting the [NYS COVID-19 ExpressCare Therapeutics Access Website](#).
- People who are symptomatic and awaiting COVID-19 test results or have tested positive for COVID-19 should follow [CDC's Isolation Guidance](#).

### **Isolation**

- People who have tested positive or are awaiting COVID-19 test results should remain home and follow the [CDC's Isolation Guidance](#). The isolation period may vary based on COVID-19 symptoms.

- If someone who tested positive has no symptoms, isolation may end after day 5. If someone has symptoms, isolation may end after day 5 if they are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving.
- People should wear a mask through day 10 after ending isolation when they are feeling better (fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms improving).
- Antigen testing (e.g., Rapid Test or home test) is not required to end isolation; however, some schools may allow use of the “[test-based strategy](#)” to potentially shorten the length of time for post-isolation mask use. With two negative tests 48 hours apart, people may remove their mask sooner than day 10. If a person’s test result is positive, they may still be infectious and should continue wearing a mask and wait at least 48 hours before taking another test and continue taking antigen tests 48 hours apart until two negative results are received. This may mean masking and testing beyond day 10.

**Note: After having ended isolation, if COVID-19 symptoms recur or worsen**, restart isolation at day 0. Day 0 of isolation is the day of symptom onset. Staff and student’s parents/guardians should be advised to talk to a healthcare provider about their symptoms or when to end isolation.

### Testing

- Antigen test – refers to a same day or home test. These are often self-administered tests.
- PCR, NAAT – (Polymerase Chain Reaction or Nucleic Acid Amplification tests) these are tests that are sent to labs and results take days, these tests detect the presence of the virus.
- Screening testing is no longer required to be offered or provided by schools. However, testing provides an opportunity for people who test positive to connect to treatment and allows schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Resources have been made available to schools to support testing. Schools may consider requiring testing before certain activities, such as choir, or contact sports. Community testing also remains available and can be located at <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/community-based-testing-sites/index.html#ny>.

### Masking

- Universal masking is not currently required in the school setting but is recommended in indoor public settings when a community is in a High [COVID-19 Community level](#). Local health departments (LHDs) and school districts and private schools may consult and collaborate on masking decisions.
- Wearing a well-fitting mask is recommended for those who were exposed and for isolation. Please see the Quarantine and Isolation sections above for additional detail. Additionally, people may choose to wear a mask because of increased risk for serious COVID outcomes or for another reason.
  - If a school is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak masks can be added as a prevention strategy, regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level, to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 during an outbreak. Schools should confer with their local health department during an outbreak.
  - According to the [Commissioner’s Determination on Masking in Certain Indoor Settings Pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60](#) masking is required for public transportation conveyances and transportation hubs for all persons two years of age and older who are able to medically tolerate a face covering/mask, regardless of vaccination status.