# Reopening of Schools

August 26, 2021

*Update to the Board of Education*

# Guiding Ideas

Return to our pre-pandemic in-person educational and full co-curricular program, to the fullest extent possible.

Include layered COVID mitigation strategies to limit disruptions to in-person learning and co-curricular activities.

# Layered Mitigation Strategies Based on Directives/Guidance from:

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Department of Health

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
EXCELSIOR
1784

CDC
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

NASSAU COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# A return to pre-pandemic operations …

- All students return to in-person instruction
- Removal of student desk shields in the classroom and the cafeteria
- Elementary schools revert back to pre-pandemic start and end times
- Field trips resume
- Student lockers in use at the Secondary School
- Full Athletic Program
- Extra-help returns to in-person
- Homework Program returns
- Elementary Special Area Instruction delivered in the Special Area classrooms
- Extra-curricular activities return to in-person
- Late buses provided
- Community events including Homecoming return
- Visitor policy reverts back to pre-pandemic policy









# Visitors and Guests

- Schools will generally accept visitors with a scheduled appointment.
- Visitors will be required to comply with all District COVID-19 protocols.
- We will continue to partner with the SCA to provide students with in-person experiences supported by SCA volunteers

# Layered mitigation strategies to limit disruptions to in-person learning and co-curricular activities

- Daily Health Screening Attestation
- Staying home when sick
- Masks
- Physical Distancing
- School lunch
- PE locker usage
- Emphasis on respiratory etiquette and hand sanitizing
- COVID cleaning protocols
- Remote instruction will only be permitted under stringent protocols



# Layered Mitigation Strategies for Performing Groups

- Performing groups return to classrooms with 3 feet of physical distancing
- Best practices will be observed in an effort to minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission. This includes:
  - students not sharing wind instruments or materials,
  - choral students wearing masks and,
  - band students playing through band masks and/or using flute shields when rehearsing.
- Additionally, bell covers with MERV filters will be used for wind instruments.



# Layered Mitigation Strategies for Athletics

- The full schedule of extra-curricular activities and athletics will resume in-person.
- Student athletes will have access to lockers.
- The District will continue to monitor guidance from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association as well as Section VIII.
- Mitigation strategies will comply with school day policies and procedures.



# Transportation

- All students must wear a mask on school buses regardless of vaccination status at all times. Students may not eat or drink on the school bus, which would require them to remove their mask.
- Late buses will be offered for students.
- Siblings or children who reside in the same household must sit together.
- Parents are urged to utilize District transportation to alleviate congestion on all three campuses and to ensure timely arrival for the start of instruction.

# Elementary School Lunch

- Students will eat lunch in their classrooms or in the cafeteria on a rotating basis to maintain six (6) feet of physical distancing.
- School lunch will be pre-ordered and delivered to the classroom or cafeteria.
- Mask breaks will be provided during lunch.
- Under a federally funded program all school lunches at Munsey Park and Shelter Rock that qualify as a complete meal will be free for ALL children.

# Secondary School Lunch

- To ensure appropriate physical distancing, secondary school students eat lunch at a desk while in the cafeteria or the Middle School gym, or may eat outside.
- 11th and 12th graders continue to exercise off campus privileges during their lunch period, if they choose to do so.
- Under a federally funded program breakfast and lunch at the Secondary School that qualify as a complete meal will be free for ALL children.

# Layered Mitigation: Ventilation

- The District will continue to ensure that there is an acceptable level of ventilation throughout each building.
- Mechanical Ventilation systems have been tested and continue to be repaired and/or upgraded.
- The District will open windows (temperature permitting) to supplement the mechanical ventilation of school facilities.
- The District will continue to emphasize the use of outdoor learning spaces.



# Layered Mitigation: Contact Tracing

- The District will continue to collaborate with the Nassau County Department of Health to identify close contacts.
- The CDC defines a close contact is someone who was within six (6) feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within three (3) to six (6) feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student correctly and consistently wore a well-fitting mask the entire time.
- This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

# Questions and Answers

The District's detailed reopening plan can be found on the District website.

