



Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools

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A National Blue Ribbon District of Excellence

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June 12, 2020

Dear Hastings Families,

As we get closer to the end of the school year and discussions begin about re-opening in September, we wanted to inform you of where we are so far in our planning efforts.

The school re-entry planning team consists of a representative group of stakeholders including teachers, administrators, parents, students, clerical members, custodians, physicians, nurses, youth services, law enforcement, and members of the Board of Education. We have had several meetings to discuss school re-opening documents from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services of New York State to formulate the development of our school re-entry plan for September.

While the Governor has stated that Superintendents will receive guidance on how to develop our plans, the Superintendents in the Southern Westchester region meet regularly to share ideas and discuss ways that we can coordinate our efforts so that there are similarities across our respective plans. In addition, the Superintendents work closely with the Superintendent of the Southern Westchester BOCES who meets weekly with the New York State Education Department.

While the collaborations described above are helpful, we need specific guidance in a number of areas from the Governor's Office, the New York State Department of Health, and the New York State Department of Education. We will develop a comprehensive and thoughtful school re-entry plan that reflects federal and state guidelines. However, we are mindful that health and safety guidelines are not always written with what seems best for the whole child, seems workable in learning environments, nor seems sensible for family logistics, and we are grateful that our District re-entry planning committee has those frameworks in mind as we review the recommendations.

We will share another update with you next Friday, June 19. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (Valerie).

Sincerely,

Dr. Valerie Henning-Piedmonte
Hastings-on-Hudson Board of Education