



BLIND BROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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PATRICK K. BRIMSTEIN, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 15, 2020

Dear Blind Brook Community,

I am reaching out to you, our parent partners, with information in advance of the Community Forums next week. By providing greater clarity in times of continued uncertainty, I hope to reduce some of the stress and provide additional insights to help you formulate your questions in advance of the forum.

COHORT ASSIGNMENTS

You should have received an email from the principals about your child(ren)'s assigned cohort for the hybrid model, which includes a balance of in-person and distance learning.

Our leadership team dedicated many days to working out the logistics of maintaining naturally occurring relationships across neighborhoods throughout the community. Fostering numerical balance of K-12 class loads throughout the day was of great importance as well.

Medical science, Department of Health guidance, and other research informed our work to reduce exposure risks, decrease the density of students, maintain cohorts throughout the school day, minimize contacts outside of defined cohorts, and integrate cleaning between these smaller groups of students. Any changes to these assignments would unravel the integrity of the planning and introduce risk factors for coronavirus transmission that have been mitigated by our cohort plan. Accordingly, no reassignments of students in any of the three buildings will be considered.

While we recognize that this may cause an adjustment for individual households, it is important for student safety that the carefully planned design remains intact.

This cohort information was provided as soon as it was available to assist parents in determining childcare and related supervisory arrangements. Teacher roster information will be delivered later in August as balancing efforts are ongoing with new information arriving daily.

We also understand that some families may have concerns about in-person school for students with health issues. If this applies to you, please fill out [this form](#). We are exploring how to serve this population with a fully remote option.

DISTANCE LEARNING STARTING SEPTEMBER 8 WITH HYBRID LATER IN THE MONTH

September 8th will mark nearly 6 months since most teachers and students have walked the halls of our school buildings. In addition, familiarity among classmates and staff has been limited by social distancing and mostly virtual interactions. Returning to school carries both a degree of positive excitement and some trepidation.

We want to ensure that our return to school is as safe and well thought-out as possible, and that students have a smooth and comfortable transition. We want to inspire the full confidence and support of our parent partners. We want all of our educators to have time back in the buildings to set up their classrooms, become familiar with new social-distancing measures and material, as well as the new technology tools that we are putting into practice.

BMPRSS

For the week of September 8-11th, we will begin with distance learning activities, balanced by small group visitations designed to help students adjust back to school. This time will also be used for teacher training on new procedures and technologies.

We plan to offer a series of opportunities for our elementary students and their parents to come into the school building in small, safe groups throughout the first four days. We want the children to meet their teachers in person, walk through the building, and feel the excitement of returning to school.

During this time, parents will meet with the principals to have their questions and concerns addressed. We believe that this introduction will set a more welcoming tone, allowing the children to interact with their teachers in person before seeing them on a computer screen.

BBMS & BBHS

For the Middle and High Schools, students will have a distance learning experience as described in the [District Reopening Plan](#) through September 18th. This will allow each teacher to work virtually with the entire class. The emphasis will be on relationship building, previewing the course, establishing norms, and attending to the social-emotional well-being of each student during this return to school.

I share this overview of our ongoing planning to encourage your feedback during the upcoming forums. Thank you for your continued generosity in sharing ideas. Our schools will be made stronger by navigating the challenges together as a community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patrick Brimstein