



Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Hastings Families and Staff,

I am writing with an important update on the status of the Farragut Wing renovations and the prognosis for the start of the 2025-26 school year. It is now doubtful that the Farragut Wing will be ready for full use by the first day of school on September 2, 2025. While there is a chance that it could be ready, I cannot ask FMS and HHS staff and families to go into the summer without a definite plan for how school will open in September. The sound estimate is that the facility will be ready during October 2025.

As a result, I have decided that the Farragut Complex (FMS and HHS) will start the school year with classroom, instructional space and schedule arrangements similar to how we have been proceeding since January 2025. Making this decision now will allow planning to focus on maximizing the chance for a good start of the school year. FMS and HHS administrators will be coordinating with staff on preparing their classrooms for the standard summer cleaning. They also will be providing guidance to families on what to expect at the start of the school year.

Over the summer, district and building administrators will map out the plan for a transition into the renovated and ready Farragut Wing in October. The transition plan will ensure that we minimize disruptions for students and teachers with a move into new space after the school year has started. As those plans are finalized, building administrators will communicate with you.

We have been working intensively since January with engineers, architects and construction managers to bring back the Farragut Wing in the safe, secure, healthy and code-compliant fashion that is required. Given the extent of loss in a large facility, this has been a complex process, requiring approvals by insurance providers and multiple NYS agencies. We continue full-speed ahead, but the wise move is to be conservative and anticipate an October completion date. To do otherwise, we could be facing last minute changes for the opening of school that would create major problems for students, families and staff.

FMS and HHS families and staff will be receiving information and guidance most immediately from their building administrators. I appreciate your continued patience and support as we close out this school year and plan for the opening of school in the fall.

Sincerely,

Bill

William McKersie, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools