



# ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Rockaway Borough Community.

Last night at an emergency meeting, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education approved a revised District Reopening Plan for September 2020. This plan will now be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education for review.

The following changes were made:

**Lincoln Elementary will start the year in full remote mode.**

Unfortunately, the need to delay in-person instruction at Lincoln Elementary is due to issues that have arisen from our current referendum construction and renovation projects and are not due to COVID-19 related issues. Unforeseeable delays that have been definitely beyond the district's control have occurred in that the designated projects have not successfully been completed and most importantly have not received the necessary approval of local construction and building officials so that the building can safely be opened for both students and staff, let alone properly cleaned, sanitized and prepared for in-person instruction.

**At the current time, we have set October 5<sup>th</sup> as our goal date of returning to in-person at Lincoln.**

The virtual day schedule for Lincoln students will focus on core content subjects in the morning and time for special area subjects and office hours in the afternoon. Every class will contain some live component with students required to log in to each assigned class daily. Cohorts will be united and all students in a given class will follow the same schedule each day. Instruction will take place five days a week and begin at 8:30 am. Since we will be taking advantage of the afternoon for additional instruction and office hours, the academic day will end at 3:10 pm. It is our hope that this type of structured day will provide students and teachers the designated and necessary time they need to engage in meaningful instruction as well as connect with students virtually until we are able to resume in-person instruction. Individual class and student schedules as well as necessary log in information will follow.

**Thomas Jefferson will continue to reopen with in-person instruction following the A/B hybrid model.**

Students in Cohort A will attend in-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays while those in Cohort B will report to school on Wednesdays and Fridays. The in-person day will begin at 8:20 am and end at 1:00pm. Virtual students as well as all hybrid students at home will be required to log in to each of their scheduled classes daily. The afternoon schedule will be devoted to office hours and interventions. Each class will contain some live component as the district will be utilizing live streaming to equitably connect and address the academic needs of all students. On Virtual Mondays the schedule will provide designated blocks of time and opportunities to meet with all students virtually with attendance taken for each session.

**Thomas Jefferson students who are part of Cohort C will attend in person classes Monday through Friday.**

I am truly sorry for this late change in direction regarding the opening of Lincoln School as I am sure this will be a hardship for many, but it was an inevitable decision based on the condition of the building and our inability to safely open it for in-person instruction.

Many thanks as always for your support and understanding during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phyllis Alpaugh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "A".

Phyllis Alpaugh