



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH REOPENING SCHOOL DRAFT PLAN AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE RETURN TO SCHOOL

August 7, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hope everyone is well in general and faring for the better following our latest brush with Mother Nature. Like many of you in town, our school buildings and offices also lost power, but we are moving forward with our plans to reopen for in-person instruction in September.

With that said, I would like share with you the Draft of our Reopening School Plan. I use the word DRAFT as it is fluid document currently under review by the County Superintendent and the New Jersey Department of Education, and at any time may be revised pending directive of the Governor's office and local and state health officials.

[Rockaway Borough Reopen School Plan](#)

The plan was developed in conjunction with a wide variety of district and community stakeholders in accordance with the Governor's Restart and Recovery Guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of both students and staff. While the entire draft plan is available for your review, I will highlight some of the most important features below:

- Students will receive in-person instruction two days a week based on an A/B Hybrid model coupled with three days of virtual/remote learning allowing for approximately 50% of students to be in buildings on a certain day to comply with recommended social distancing guidelines.
- Students will be divided into cohorts alphabetically to keep families together, but also with consideration for academic programming.
- During in-person days, instruction will focus on Core Content Subjects such as English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.
- All in-person days will end at 1pm with the hope of expanding to full days if and when health and safety conditions permit.
- All students and staff will be required to wear masks or face coverings unless prohibited by a medical condition.
- Staff will promote and encourage increased safety and health practices such as frequent handwashing and social distancing while the custodial staff will focus on frequent sanitizing and disinfecting of rest rooms and high touch surfaces.
- As per the Governor's directive, families also have the option to choose a full time remote learning option. (See pp. 19-20 of the plan for more specific information.)

To assist us in better planning for September, we ask that all parents complete the below questionnaire indicating whether your child(ren) will be returning to school for in-person instruction or as a family you are choosing remote learning. The form is due by August 12th. Even if you have already expressed your desire for remote learning or in-person instruction to myself or a building administrator, we ask that you complete the below Google form for each one of your children so we can use the information to accurately finalize class lists and of course, plan for instruction.

[Back to School 20-21 Questionnaire](#)

[Back to School 20-21 Questionnaire Spanish](#)

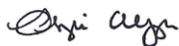
I also want to bring one more safety concern to your attention, namely the fourteen (14) day travel quarantine now in effect for 35 of our 50 states. As many of you are aware, New Jersey has issued a travel advisory for individuals who are returning home after traveling to certain states where there is a higher rate of individuals testing positive for COVID-19. With the health and safety of all members of our school community in mind, Rockaway Borough students like staff, will be required to self-quarantine in accordance with this travel advisory in regards to targeted start of school on Tuesday September 8th. Please see the following letter for more details and information.

[Student Travel Quarantine Letter](#)

Besides sending out class assignments in the coming weeks, we will be also scheduling a number of virtual events such as Kindergarten and 4th grade Orientation, Parent Academies regarding our 1:1 Initiative, Chromebook Distribution for grades K-4 and a host of other events to support you and your children for the coming school year. In addition, we also will be posting instructional videos, sharing applicable resources and providing you with a Student/Parent Handbook that hopefully will clarify the many practices and procedures we will instituting both in the buildings and at home during this unprecedented time.

In conclusion, thank you all for your understanding, patience and flexibility regarding the potential execution of this plan as its overall intention is simply founded in keeping our Rockaway Borough Community safe and healthy.

Best wishes always,



Phyllis Alpaugh
Superintendent