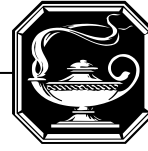


# Island Park Schools

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MR. VINCENT RANDAZZO  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

October 9, 2020

Dear Island Park Families,

I hope this email finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy!

This week we completed our fifth week of Hybrid learning (in-person and remote instruction) and we would like to thank the entire Island Park community for their collective efforts which ensured the safe return of our students and employees. Throughout the five-week period, we have closely monitored all of our health and safety protocols and procedures, strengthened our relationship and communication with the Nassau County Department of Health, and have closely monitored the regional and local infection rate. Since Hybrid learning began on September 9<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Education and the District's Administrative Team have closely monitored the Island Park COVID-19 infection rate, which has steadily decreased since the start of the school year. To date, the seven (7) day daily average per 1,000 Island Park residents is 0.86%.

Throughout our reopening planning and at all four (4) of the family forums, the Board of Education and I assured the community that the District was committed to an ongoing review of our instructional approach to in-person learning. Based upon our most recent thorough review of the District's reopening efforts, additional guidance from the New York State Education Department, and the New York State Department of Health, the District is planning to return elementary-aged students back to school for in-person instruction, five (5) days per week, using a phased-in approach. In order to achieve our goal of returning students to in-person instruction, five (5) days per week, while honoring our pledge to keep students and employees safe and healthy, the District is using the New York State Department of Health Guidelines and proposing the purchase and use of appropriate physical barriers (sneeze guards). The physical barriers (sneeze guards) will be placed on student desks in lieu of 6 feet social distancing. In planning a return to in-person instruction, five (5) days per week, the District is prioritizing the needs of elementary-aged students first, followed by our middle school-aged students in grades 6-8. The District is planning for the following phased-in approach for elementary-aged students:

Grades	Date of Return	All In-Person Model
Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 2	Wednesday, November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Use of physical barriers (sneeze guards) on desks and masks
Grade 3 through Grade 5	Monday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Use of physical barriers (sneeze guards) on desks and masks
<b>*Grades 6-8 will be evaluated throughout the month of December</b>		

If we are able to return to in-person instruction, five (5) days per week, for the 2020-2021 school year, there are only two options for your child(ren) in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5. At this time, we would like to collect input from families on the return to in-person learning, five (5) days per week, for elementary students. We are asking families of elementary-aged children, Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5, to complete the form, using the link below, to inform the District of their preference regarding the two (2) instructional options by Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>:

**(1) In-Person (5 days per week) with Physical Barriers; or**

**(2) Remote Only (5 days per week)**

In addition, the survey will include a follow-up question regarding bus transportation. In order for the Island Park UFSD to return to in-person instruction five (5) days a week for students in Grades Pre-K through Grade 5, we will need some of our families to opt out of busing for the 2020-2021 school year. Any family that opts out of bus transportation can opt back in for the following school year. If you decide to opt to return to transportation at any point during this school year, you must provide the Transportation Department with two (2) weeks (14 days) advance notice. If too many families opt back in during the school year, we may need to move back to the hybrid model of instruction.

Survey link- <https://forms.gle/jCiuykA9cSV56fZn7>

**If we are able to return to in-person instruction, the Island Park School District Board of Education and Administration reserve the right to move back to a hybrid model of instruction at any time based on current infection rates and/or guidance from the New York State Education Department, NYS Department of Health and/or guidance from the Nassau County Department of Health.**

At the October 19<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting, which will be held virtually via WebEx, I will review this plan in greater detail and answer any questions.

As always, the health and safety of our students and employees remain at the forefront in all of our reopening planning. Thank you for your continued support, cooperation and patience as we finalize our plan for returning elementary-aged students to in-person instruction, five (5) days per week, and work to best support our students and their families.

Fondly,



Vincent Randazzo

Superintendent of Schools

**We need every family with a child(ren) in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 to complete the survey.**

Survey link- <https://forms.gle/jCiuykA9cSV56fZn7>

