

# PAWLING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Small Size ~ Diverse Opportunities

July 20, 2020

Dear Pawling Community,

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged our school and broader community in many ways. During the time of school-building closure, from March-June of 2020, our educators, students, parents, and the broader community worked together to provide the best possible experiences we could for our students in the context of fully remote learning. Since then, we have assessed our efforts across multiple areas, from teaching and learning, to infrastructure, health and safety, technology, and social emotional support. We are grateful to the multiple participants in this reflection and assessment, especially our educators, students, and parents. Now it is time to build upon the successes of the past school year, including the collaborative strength of our community, and launch into the process of reimagining and renewing public education in Pawling for what will surely be a challenging and rewarding year ahead.

On Thursday, July 16, the New York State Education Department issued its long-awaited [guidance](#) for our school building re-opening. We were prepared for the task of preparing plans for instruction under three conditions: remote, in-person, and hybrid. Which of these models will be used depends on our capacity to achieve fully in-person instruction while meeting or exceeding the safety guidelines and the Governor's determination of whether school may open in-person. The extensive feedback gathered from our community and reviewed by our Learning Advisory Committee, comprising students, parents, teachers and administrators, will inform our development of all three models.

In keeping with the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) guidance on school re-entry, we, along with the majority of feedback we received, have a strong value for live, in-person instruction. We will prioritize bringing as many of our students back to school, for in-person instruction, as we can **while meeting or exceeding safety guidelines**. If we are not fully able to bring every student in every day, we will prioritize younger students for whom both remote instruction and childcare are more challenging.

We expect to release our re-entry plans on July 31. Between August 1 and 7, the Governor will determine whether schools in our region may re-open for in-person instruction.

At present, we have the information from the community that we need based on our ThoughtExchanges, surveys, and committee participation. However, I ask you to stay tuned in case additional input is needed. As always, if you have question or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Fontana".

Kim Fontana