

CSD 17'S R.I.S.E UP NEWSLETTER



“If we embrace a will to excellence, we can deeply restructure education in ways that will enable teachers to release the full potential of all of our children.” – ASA G. Hilliard

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

CSD 17 families:

We have triumphed through our first few weeks of in-person and remote learning. We are facing this challenging time together. I would like to thank all our scholars and our families for their patience, resourcefulness, and encouragement as we started the 2020-21 school year.



I hope all of you have now seen that the learning is not the same as it was in the spring. When we had to shut down unexpectedly in March, our teachers, school staff, administrators and district team moved quickly to create a new way of delivering instruction. We learned from that experience and your feedback. Over the summer, our staff spent thousands of hours preparing to deliver the best education to our scholars.

Although there were some challenges and will be, our staff are adept at building relationships and resilience no matter the circumstances. I've already seen incredible work from both your scholars, administrators, and their staff. Your child's teacher is helping them build routines and stamina.

In the meantime, please stay safe and in touch with the teacher about any issues. We are there to support you as well as your child.

Despite the successes and challenges we've seen so far; our goal remains to provide our scholars with the best education possible. Our schools will continue to communicate with you regularly, we will continue to provide parent workshops, community support, communication with parent leaders, and Town Hall meetings.

More than ever, thank you for your support as we continue to R.I.S.E. together.

Dr. Clarence G. Ellis
Superintendent of Community School District 17

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District Team

Clarence G. Ellis, CSD 17 Superintendent

Shenean Lindsay, Deputy Superintendent

Mary Revira, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Deandra Henderson, Director of Continuous Improvement

Philton Lewis-Thomas, District Family Leadership Coordinator

Margot Sargeant, District Family Support Coordinator

Carlen Padmore-Gateau, Principal Assigned, Director of Equity

DISTRICT PRIORITIES

- We must honor and acknowledge the experiences of students, families, and staff as a result of the pandemic. We will support their needs using the SEL framework. This work will result in knowing all students, family, and staff well.
- We will enhance blended and remote learning experiences to ensure there is rigor, support, and enrichment for all students. We will also provide Professional Learning experiences which are meaningful and relevant to the needs of our schools.
- We will ensure supports are put in place for our most vulnerable students.
- We will increase communication across the district to ensure all stakeholders receive the same information in a timely manner.
- We will continue to provide more Social Emotional Learning/Wellness support for our families.
- We will set up a virtual Parent Coordinators & Parent Leaders conversation hour.
- We will continue to provide Blended & Remote Platform support for families.
- Continued collaboration with Presidents' Council, FACE and community partners.
- We will continue to have special needs workshops for families.
- Providing families of ELL/MLLs with workshops & resources

SCHOLARS ON THE RISE

The scholars in our district are doing great things and have a lot of potential. We will use this area to highlight "Scholars on the RISE".

FAMILY & COMMUNITY NEWS

On behalf of the District 17 Family Engagement Team, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the 2020/21 school year. I know for many of you this is not the kind of back to school that you were expecting, with everything in life we must always expect the unexpected. We now must embrace what is now considered the norm and hope that we will one day be able to go back to full in person teaching, meeting, and events. Through all this, one thing will never change, and that is the support you have for many years received and will continue to receive from the District 17 Family Engagement Team. Please click on our Link Tree <https://linktr.ee/CSD17> to access to helpful resources and e-mail us at AsK17@gmail.com if you any questions.

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

District 17 will

Strengthen all school communities- create spaces in school communities to give members the opportunity to express themselves and to make connections based on their collective trauma, experiences and hopes.

- Foster Resilience- form groups that will meet on an ongoing basis to support each other.
- Utilize special considerations

In Person Learning

Prioritize health and safety guidance and expectations when planning staff and student experiences

Use Restorative Practices

- Organize virtual opportunities for classroom, grade-wide and/or school-wide celebrations and other community activities.
- Provide guidance and support to students in writing Circles and practicing virtual Circle Keeping with their peers to increase student voice, engagement, and ownership of their learning and collective wellness of the school community. Giving children and staff the opportunity to express themselves about how they are feeling regarding the pandemic.
- Continue with My Brother's and My Sister's Keeper program (Grades 5-8) in each school to support scholars through *mentorship, leadership and civic responsibility*.
- Continue with a Guardians of Equity team in each school that will support staff members and school leaders in supporting an equitable culturally responsive school environment.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Curriculum

District 17 stands strong and proud with our schools and the progress we have made over these past months. We have provided our schools with instructional expectations to uphold during this very unprecedented time. The district has shared the resources that the NYCDOE have provided all teachers within the teach hub that consists of priority standards aligned lessons that are in ELA, Math, Science and Social Emotional Learning.

LIVE Instruction

Our teachers across the district will be engaging in live interaction with their students daily. There is an array of options for teachers to use to engage their students during whole class, small groups or one on one conferences. Some but not all the platforms being used are; google meets, DOE Zoom, Microsoft teams, and phone conferencing if necessary. Our teachers also have office hours to connect with students and families to assist with instructional guidance or provide ongoing feedback to students to help monitor the progress of their students.

In addition, we encourage all teachers to make sure that our students and staff are at their optimal emotional state by embedding and balancing a strong social emotional component to all lessons that tap into an awareness of what students are feeling during this time. School leaders are supporting their teachers in every way that they can to ensure teachers are comfortable in navigating the platforms being used.

Even though this is a new way of teaching and learning for many of us, we are getting through it together and sharing best practices throughout the journey. We will continue to RISE and grow together.

Please ensure that your child is signed up for a [NYC Schools Account](#) (NYCSA) so your school can contact you via phone, email, or text message. With NYCSA, you can access your child's grades, schedules, report cards, and more—from anywhere, and in all nine standard DOE language translations.

RESOURCES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Upcoming Parent Workshops and Townhalls:

Chancellor's Townhall Meeting-- October 29, 2020 6:30 pm

School Leadership Team Workshop

- November 5, 2020, 5:00 pm – 7 pm
- **Parent Workshop- Continuing to Build Parent Workshop**
- November 12, 2020, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

<https://linktr.ee/CSD17>

Check out our Link Tree for the Zoom links and details about all of our workshops and activities.

Community School District 17
Clarence G. Ellis, Superintendent

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