

PS/MS114Q
THE BELLE HARBOR SCHOOL
400 Beach 135TH Street
Belle Harbor, NY 11694
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Elizabeth Welsome, Principal

Deana Folchetti-Puglin, Assistant Principal

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Dear Families,

Our planning for the 2020-21 school year is ongoing. I do wish we had answers to all of the questions that surround the current plan to return to the school building in a Blended Learning Model. However, so many moving pieces of this puzzle affect one another.

In an effort to keep you updated on our thinking process, we want to share the information that is guiding our decision making process thus far.

PS/MS 114 has received guidance from Central about the number of students and staff that we can safely have in the school building, keeping social distancing guidelines in effect. The Safety Team reviewed these social distancing capacity numbers, room by room and compared them to the projected number of students for each room.

Central has also shared recommended blended learning programming models for schools to use as a guide for planning based on the number of students a school can accommodate at one time and the number of staff on hand.

Although this seems to be a cut and dry decision in that numbers will determine model, the final numbers of students and staff are not certain at this time.

Central has opened the application process for families who know that they want to continue with full-time remote learning, no matter what programming model their school chooses, and we sent the link for that survey out last week. In addition, school based staff who have pre-existing health conditions can apply for a reasonable accommodation that may enable them to continue working from home. Those decisions directly affect the number of staff we have in the school building to teach and supervise our students.

School Leadership Team met yesterday to review all of the information we had available to us. We are planning to share the programming model that our school can support by Monday as we wait on a few pieces of information that are incoming this week. Our goal is to let families know as soon as possible so that you can begin to plan as well.

There have also been many questions about what school will look and feel like as we return to the school building. The most updated information can be found on the "Return to School" page on the DOE website. Use the link below to access the page and you can then click the Health and Safety tab, among others, to answer many of the questions that families have.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-year-20-21/return-to-school-2020>

It is my goal to be transparent and keep you updated as I receive information and formulate plans.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these very challenging and uncertain times.

Mrs. Welsome

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