

PS/MS114Q
 THE BELLE HARBOR SCHOOL
 400 Beach 135TH Street
 Belle Harbor, NY 11694
 Telephone: (718)634-3382 Fax: (718)945-4510

Elizabeth Welsome, Principal

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August 11, 2020

Dear Families,

Our planning for the 2020-21 school year has been challenging as we consider so many uncertainties and concerns. Currently, we are planning for a Blended Learning Model. Blended Learning, as defined by the NYC DOE, refers to the use of technology to maximize face to face and online instruction by providing teachers the opportunity to deliver instruction in a consistent manner. Blended Learning uses a digital learning platform (Google Classroom) to capture data used to inform instruction and allow students to consume instruction in a self-paced way. In a Blended Learning model, students spend some time in the school building and continue with remote learning the remainder of the time.

In an effort to keep you updated on our planning process, we want to share the information that we continue to receive and reflect on as we plan for September.

PS/MS 114 has received guidance from Central about the number of students and staff that we can safely have in the school building at one time, 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. Our school can accommodate 300-330 students at one time given social distancing guidelines, which is less than half of our student register of 715 students. I also had a personal session with the Borough Director of Space Planning to ensure that we are moving forward with plans that maintain student and staff safety as our first priority.

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 safely accommodate at one time. Taking into consideration: the information above, current labor and union guidelines, the number of students and staff we anticipate being in our building, and the amount of coverages that need to be provided for teachers, **our school needs to select Model 2**. In addition, the application process for families who chose Full Remote Learning has closed. The number of families who chose full remote learning was not nearly high enough to allow for a different programming model.

Model 2 splits students into three cohorts where students attend school 1-2 days per week and continue with remote learning 3-4 days per week (see model below). The in-person days will support and supplement the remote learning experience.

| Model 2: | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|
| In Person Schedule | | | | | |
| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Group D (Full Time Remote Learning Option) | | | | | |
| 1 | Group A | Group B | Group A | Group B | Group C |
| 2 | Group B | Group C | Group A | Group B | Group C |
| 3 | Group C | Group A | Group A | Group B | Group C |

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We are almost done organizing students into cohorts A, B, and C for the proposed programming model. Our priority is to keep siblings together so that they are attending in-person school on the same days. We will be sending a letter (siblings) or a postcard (individual students/no siblings) that will have your official class and cohort assignment by the end of next week.

Our re-opening committee that will be continuing this work will be comprised of members of The School Leadership Team, The Safety Committee and The Instructional Leadership Team. We will continue to keep you updated as we gain more information and finalize our plan for September.

As we have all come to expect and understand, things may change as the summer progresses. It is our intent to keep families aware and updated as we receive new information but also to set plans in advance so that families can start to think about what September might look like. However, if circumstances allow for or demand change, we will adjust and refine our planning.

Our priority is student and staff safety and we thank you for your patience and understanding during these very uncertain times.

The School Leadership Team

We encourage you to continue checking the DOE "Return to School" page for updated information. Use the link below to access the page and you can then click the Health and Safety tab, among others, to answer many questions.

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