



## *Public School 3*

*We fly We soar We achieve*

*Elmer Myers, Principal*

*Danielle Papa-McDonagh, Assistant Principal*

*Danka Amtzis, Assistant Principal*

September 2, 2020

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff of PS 3, I am happy to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year!

We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure that our children can achieve to their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We are confident that a strong collaboration will make the difference in your child's education. Although the upcoming school year will be a challenging one for students, staff and families, I am fully confident that we can provide an exceptional experience for our students.

Unfortunately, information related to several topics is incomplete, but I will share with you the information that I do have now.

### **School Opening Information**

The school year will begin for all students on Monday, September 21, 2020. All students attending PS 3 are in one of four cohorts:

Cohort A : students will be attending school on Tuesdays/Thursdays and alternating Mondays.

Cohort A's first day in person will be Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Cohort B: Students will be attending school on Wednesdays/Fridays and alternating Mondays.

Cohort B's first day in person will be Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Cohort D: Students in cohort D will be learning remotely from home every day.

Cohort F: Students in cohort F will be attending school in person full time. These are students in the following classes: 901, 902, 903.

Cohort F's first day in person will be Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Our first priority was to have all siblings in the same cohort. This is the case for all PS 3 students. In addition, we made every attempt to align cohorts of siblings that attend IS 7 and IS 34. Due to the restrictions and limitations of space in some classrooms, we are unable to make cohort changes.

### **Session Times**

Pending approval, the session time for students will be from 8:30am-2:00pm. Fully remote, blended or in person learners are to follow the same session times. After student session time had concluded, all teachers will have scheduled "office hours" every day for 20 minutes.

### **In Person Learning Arrival**

In order to avoid congregating at one entrance, we developed a plan for students to enter at different points around the school building. This plan will facilitate our ability to take students' temperature while having them socially distanced upon entry. For student arrivals, the following exits/entrances have been designated for each grade:

Pre-Kindergarten	Exit 7	(next to small schoolyard)
Kindergarten	Exit 11	(South Goff, next to large schoolyard fence)
First Grade	Exit 17	(next to small schoolyard, past exit 7)
Second Grade	Exit 4	(South Goff, past main entrance)
Third Grade	Exit 4	(South Goff, past main entrance)
Fourth Grade	Exit 6	(Everett Place)
Fifth Grade	Exit 1	(Main Entrance)

Students will be able to enter the building at 8:30am. All students and staff must wear face coverings upon entry to PS 3. Upon entering, students will be asked how they are feeling; and most students will have their temperature checked with a digital infrared forehead thermometer. Students with a temperature of 100.0 F or higher with chills will not be permitted to remain in school. Schools are prohibited from recording or tracking student and/or staff temperatures or other health information.

Students will have an opportunity to grab a breakfast bag and proceed to their classroom. Upon entering the classroom, students will be assigned a desk that is at least 6 feet away from others in the classroom. All students must clean their hands by washing in the sinks or utilizing hand sanitizer. During the first period of instruction, students will be able to eat their breakfast (if they took a grab and go meal). Within the first 2 periods of instruction, the teacher will be identifying if a student has a lunch from home or needs to request a school lunch (a cold school lunch will be available). Students will remain in their classroom from 8:30am-2:00pm except for the use of restrooms, Physical Education (to be conducted outdoors when weather is dry and above zero degrees) and outdoor instruction. Depending on the day, students will have lunch in their classrooms or outside.

### **Dismissal**

At 2:00pm, students will be dismissed by a paraprofessional or school aide (teachers will be engaged with their "office hours"). I will provide the exact exits for each class in the coming weeks.

### **Blended Learning**

Students that are engaged in the blended learning cohorts will be learning from home for 50% of the time. We are currently working on students' schedules while they are at home. All classes will utilize Google Classroom as the platform for learning. Each classroom will have a unique page where the teacher posts assignments, projects, material and videos. It will include assignments and "pre-work" so that students are prepared to participate when they are physically present in school. It will also include additional homework compared to what has been traditionally assigned. The DOE would like all blended students to also receive "live" synchronous instruction when home. At this time, without the DOE providing additional staff, we would have very limited ability to provide synchronous instruction for blended students while they are at home.

## **Remote Learning**

Families that have chosen full time remote learning are grouped into one class per grade and will have a full time PS 3 remote teacher. All our remote teachers have at least 15 years of teaching experience.

Parents can always choose to move their child to remote learning at any time. However, once you decide for your child to be fully remote, you must wait for the scheduled windows throughout the school year, to switch to blended learning. The first opportunity to change will be in the beginning of November. To choose remote learning, please complete the following survey: <https://www.nycenet.edu/surveys/learningpreference>

The following grades will have the following remote teachers:

Kindergarten	Mrs. Opalek	
First Grade	Mrs. Drabczyk	
Second Grade	Mrs. Serencin	
Third Grade	Mrs. Stroh	
Fourth & Fifth Grade	ELA &SS	Mrs. Damato
	Math & Science	Mrs. Kostenbader

Over the next few weeks, we will provide a clear schedule for each grade. All full time remote students will receive live synchronous instruction on a daily basis and asynchronous instruction.

## **Morning Care and Latchkey Programs**

We have requested to conduct both morning care and latchkey programs. We are currently awaiting additional guidance from the DOE if either will be permitted and what additional rules and protocols will need to be followed.

## **Bussing**

We are awaiting guidance from the DOE if there will be general education bussing this school year. Door to door special education bussing will occur.

## **Parent Meeting**

I will be holding a virtual parent meeting on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to provide any additional information that I have and to address any questions.

Please use this link to join us: <https://meet.google.com/kah-kfnc-spw>

This is a lot of information and we will be working to incorporate all of this information into an updated Student/Parent handbook that will be posted on our [www.PS3BlueHerons.org](http://www.PS3BlueHerons.org) website.

Thank you,

Elmer Myers