



### 07-31-2020 K12 Alert - Update

July 31, 2020

Dear Croton-Harmon Students, Parents, Staff and Community,

I hope this communication finds you enjoying the summer days and that everyone is healthy and safe. I am writing to provide you with some updates. It is my hope that you were able to watch the school re-entry discussions which occurred at the last two Board of Education meetings on [7/20/20](#) and [7/27/20](#). Our goal was to share the work of the Croton-Harmon School Re-Entry Task Force with our Croton-Harmon school community.

Today, July 31, 2020, school districts in New York are submitting their school re-entry plans to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the New York State Department of Health. You can find our plan on our [website](#). To quote Interim NYSED Commissioner Tahoe, "these plans are living documents" and can be edited as new information becomes available and/or districts update their plans. I hope you have a chance to review the plan.

NYSED requires each school district to develop plans for three possible reopening scenarios or models: a full (100%) in-person return, a hybrid model that includes in-person and remote learning, and a fully remote learning model. In Croton-Harmon we have developed plans for these scenarios and will continue to work on these plans throughout the month of August. Here is a summary of our planning for the Hybrid Learning Model which is a combination of in-person and remote learning:

- Grades K-2 : In-person Learning Model Monday - Friday
- Grades 3-12 : Hybrid Learning Model. Students will be divided into two groups or cohorts based on last name. In general, last names A-K will be in the Croton (orange) Group and L-Z will be in the Harmon (black) group. When the Croton Cohort is attending in-person instruction, the Harmon Cohort will be working remotely and connecting with the class/teacher virtually from home. Then the cohorts will switch where the Harmon Cohort is attending in-person instruction while the Croton Cohort is working remotely and connecting with the class/teacher virtually from home.
- Schools will assign students to a cohort. Note: we may be making adjustments to level out each group size. The schedule will be as follows:
  - Monday - Croton Day
  - Tuesday - Croton Day
  - Thursday - Harmon Day
  - Friday - Harmon Day

Wednesday will be a remote learning day for students of both cohorts grades 3 - 12.

- All Grades: A full-time distance (remote) learning option\* will be available for students at all grade levels. \*Note - Unless we receive information from NYSED or an Executive Order that prevents us from offering this, it is our intent to have this as an option for families.

At the August 6, 2020 Board of Education meeting, I will be proposing a calendar change. Should this be accepted, school for students will begin on September 8, 2020. This change will allow us to include two more superintendent conference days earlier in the year to prepare staff for the opening of school. Due to the expected changes to calendar events, this year we will **not** be mailing home the printed calendar. The school calendar will be posted on our website.

Keeping health and safety at the forefront, our schools will look and feel differently in September and I would like to highlight a few areas:

- We will be maintaining 6 feet social distancing between desks in the classroom, walking in hallways, entering buildings, etc. Physical barriers may be used in between seating if desired social distancing is not feasible.
- We will be maintaining 12 feet distance when engaging in certain activities, such as, while singing and participating in physical activities.
- Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings throughout the day and will be given “mask breaks” during the day.
- We will expect that temperature checks and health screening occur prior to coming to school or work.

In our efforts to continue to keep everyone informed, we invite you to join us “virtually” at the August 6 Board of Education meeting. The Superintendent’s Report will address school reentry and similarly to the last two meetings, we will focus on details. We are also preparing to offer three (3) community forums:

- August 10 at 5:00p.m. - Community Forum Focus:
  - Health and Safety, Facilities, & Transportation
- August 12 at 5:00p.m. - Community Forum Focus:
  - School Learning Plans -Student Schedules, Special Education, English Language Learners, Arrival/Dismissal, Technology
- August 17 at 5:00p.m. - Community Forum Focus:
  - Social Emotional Learning Needs, Athletics, Extracurricular

In addition, principals will also be hosting meetings to give students and families a closer look at school details.

We look forward to providing you with updates when we have additional information to share. I thank you for your support as we continue to plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

Yours in ***Mission Possible***,

Dr. Deborah O’Connell

[Mensaje en español](#)