



## Central Park East I Elementary School

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June 22, 2020

Dear Families,

Today, CPE1 children are participating in a time-honored ritual. At the start of the final week of school, we gather students to tell them directly which classes they will be in for the year to come.

Many schools bury that information in a note home on the final day of school, or even an August letter. But children should know what to expect. They want to know who their teachers will be, which of their friends will be in their classroom in September, which of their friends will be in the classroom down the hall, and which students are changing schools. We share information with all children so that they can think, ask questions, and express their feelings.

During last Thursday's Zoom meeting for families, we tried to be as open and direct as we are when we tell gather children to tell them next year's classes. The big news must be clear:

### **When schools re-open, children will not attend five days a week.**

The New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) plans to follow social-distancing guidelines in the fall. The city estimates that about nine students can fit in a typical classroom. CPE1 has some big classrooms, but we don't have enough room or staff to have children attend every day. That will be true in virtually every school. Our city's classrooms have space for less than half of our city's students.

This has huge implications for your family. You might have been planning to work more or take care of other obligations. Please expect that your child will be home on some weekdays.

So far, NYCDOE is asking individual schools to plan their re-opening and figure out scheduling. We at CPE1 know you can't wait all summer to find out the plan. We will be working through details in July. Ideally, you will have information your family needs long before the end of the summer.

It feels like I spent this spring writing you one tough letter after the next. I hope you take these letters in the spirit that they are written. Plain truth, shared early, is meant as a sign of respect. CPE1 does not control how and when all students return to school buildings, but we can honor your family's priorities by telling you what to expect.

Stay tuned throughout the summer.

## **Survey on Re-Opening**

Monday, June 22, is the final day to respond to NYCDOE's survey about the re-opening of school. [You can click here to take the survey.](#)

## **Citywide Survey Deadline**

You might have completed this year's survey back in March. You might have received the green envelope at your spring family conference, or taken the survey online. That was right before COVID-19 interrupted school, and disrupted the nation's largest annual survey.

A lot has changed since the start of the pandemic, but the citywide survey is still accepting responses. NYCDOE always uses survey results to compare schools. Your response should be included.

[Click here to take this survey.](#) The survey will be open for until Friday, June 26.

Gabriel

