



Central Park East I Elementary School

October 19, 2020

Dear Families,

This past summer, Chancellor Carranza promised families that November would be the month when could switch from 100% remote learning to in-person learning in the school building. Now, November is coming up fast.

New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) has not announced some key details. We do not know:

- The process for families to switch
- The dates when families can express a new preference
- The first date children who were 100% remote would come in person
- The dates in winter and spring when families can opt into in-person learning again

While we wait for that information, we want to help you plan ahead. In case NYCDOE's family survey is delayed, CPE1 will create its own survey. We will send it to you next week. And before that, this Thursday evening, we will have a meeting for families to talk more.

To keep social distance, each classroom has less than half of the regular number of students. Right now, our in-person classrooms are just about full. We could move a class to the art room. For example, the art room has space for two people more than Aishah's classroom, so we could change rooms if two second graders want to come back. However, the art room is the same size as Marilyn's and Patricia's class, so changing rooms is not the answer if we get more in-person kindergarteners and first graders.

If enough children return, some remote teachers might come back to in-person learning. What changes would children follow for remote students learning at home? Again, the school will plan once we know families' preferences.

That is a lot of unknowns for a family trying to decide to come back to the school building mid-year. If you are considering that, think about it like this: choose *in-person*,

not *one* person. That is, decide that in-person learning is right for your child, no matter who the teacher will be or which other children will be in the class.

At CPE1, we tell children in June who their teacher and classmates will be in September so that they know what to expect. Making everyone wait to find out goes against our beliefs. It's another bump in this very unpredictable year. That makes it more important to keep coming together, so we feel more like our regular school. So please join our next meeting for families:

Day: Thursday, October 23
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86820224561?pwd=Mnp4bUlmQ2Q1aUISVWplRlR3NjVldzO9>
Meeting ID: 868 2022 4561
Passcode: 111111
Dial-In: 646.558.8656

There's a lot to talk about, so we hope you can make it on Thursday evening.

COVID-19 Testing on Wednesday

On Wednesday, we have our first round of COVID-19 testing in the school building. So far, the city is testing only students in grades 1- 12, and only those whose families signed consent forms. For us this Wednesday, that means children in Patricia's, Charlotte's, and Cecilia's classes will be tested. Some staff members will be tested as well.

Testing is supposed to take about a minute per child. The tests will be set up on the third floor. If you gave consent for your child to be tested, we will walk your child up and remain until your child is done.

Individual student results are confidential. We will get an overall report for the whole school, but it will not identify names. [You can get a form to give consent by clicking here.](#)

Upcoming Elections

This is an election season. There will be an orderly transition of power. We know confidently that our next president aspires to service. We are assured a peaceful voting process, for the entire electorate shares so much in common. Yes, I have been following the news and yes, I'm talking about the upcoming election. It's time to vote for

president, treasurer, and secretary of the CPE1 Parents Association. What presidential election did you think I meant?

If you have a child at CPE1, you can nominate a candidate, and you can vote. To nominate a candidate, email the PA's parent nominating committee, Kaliris (ksalasramirez@gmail.com) and Chelsea (chelseasilvernell@me.com), by 5:00 on October 23. You also can nominate a candidate from the floor at the start of the next PA meeting. That happens on Tuesday, October 27, at 6:00, and candidates can be nominated from the floor during that meeting. As always, you *are* the PA, so come cast your vote.

The Other Voting at CPE1

The first-floor gymnasium will serve as an early voting site. Starting Friday of this week, people from around the neighborhood may vote in person before the big lines form on November 3. ([Click here to find the early voting site for where you live.](#))

Most voters will enter through the main entrance on East 106 Street. The courtyard will be an accessible entrance without stairs.

CPE1 will stay clear of voting traffic. While early voting is open, we will use a different door on Madison Avenue. It's just steps away from the courtyard, a little closer to East 107 Street. Students will go right upstairs without entering the lobby or coming close to the gym.

No In-Person Learning on November 3

All public schools are closed for in-person learning on Election Day, November 3. This is a day of professional work for staff, so we will not be live on Google Meets and Zoom. There will be work posted for children that day, so your child should log on.

Family Conferences (and Early Dismissal) in November

Next week, watch for a sign up for family conferences. All elementary schools have parent-teacher conferences on the evening of November 4 and afternoon of November

5. At CPE1, children always are part of these discussions with their families. Conferences, of course, will be remote.

Public elementary schools dismiss early on Thursday, November 5. School ends **at 11:00 A.M.** on that day.

See you on Zoom Thursday evening.

Gabriel

