



Central Park East I Elementary School

October 27, 2020

Dear Families,

Last week, I wrote about Chancellor Carranza's promise that families can switch from 100% remote learning to in-person learning in the school building. This week, the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) announced details.

First, NYCDOE has provided a timeline"

Between November 2 to November 15

Families complete citywide survey to tell NYCDOE whether children between in-person and remote learning

Between November 30 and December 7

Students switching to in-person start learning in the school building

These dates represent a two-week delay from what was announced previously. Additionally, NYCDOE announced a much bigger change:

November will be the only time this year to choose in-person learning.

Earlier, NYCDOE promised families three times when families could choose this change three times to make this change: fall, winter, and spring. Now, November will be one and only chance to switch to in-person.

This new policy will make planning smoother for schools, and brings more consistency for children. However, the policy also means less choice and more pressure for families. We still face a health crisis. A now-or-not-this-year decision will force some families to choose before they feel ready.

CPE1 Planning Survey

Before the city requires your decision in mid-November, we are asking all families to [complete this CPE1 survey](#). Our survey adapts to your choices. It reminds you of considerations that inform your choices. It collects your questions as well.

Please take until this Friday to think about your response. Once all families let us know their decisions, we can figure out whether to open more classes in the school building, and who will teach them. The school's plans depend on yours.

[Please click here to take the CPE1 survey](#). Later this week, if you change your mind, you can sign in again to change your answers.

How Our In-Person and Remote Learning Have Worked So Far

CPE1's in-person learning has been fortunate. Large classrooms lined with windows help with space and airflow. The school above ours, East Harlem Scholars Academy 2, moved temporarily to their other building, which makes the building less crowded. Our custodial staff has been able to spend more time on the second floor, restocking soap dispensers and disinfecting surfaces.

We also have had solid plans for remote learning. Most schools have less live, interactive teaching, and many have larger remote classes. At CPE1:

- All fully remote students have their own fulltime teachers
- At home, children have live, interactive teaching several times a day
- Two teachers work in each remote K-5 class to allow more planning and small-group support for children
- Our in-person teachers stay with the same group of students whether they are at home or school
- Our in-person teachers have Google Classrooms set up already in case we have to quarantine or school has to close
- We let our enrollment fall 14% to keep class sizes lower

We will take a budget cut with lower enrollment, but have held onto classroom staff for live, interactive support for children. Remote learning is challenging, but CPE1 has maintained more attention for students. We want to keep that going.

What Could Change

With children coming from fully remote to in-person learning, we expect changes for blended and remote learners. It is possible that a remote teacher would shift to in-person teaching. It is possible that some students would have different teachers at home and in person. It is possible that our in-person classes would give up their block

areas to make more space for classmates coming back. Whatever changes are coming, we know our resources will be moving around.

[Thank you for thinking about this survey carefully.](#) As a school community and as individual families, we all are facing complex decisions. To everyone who is not sure what's best right now, please know that CPE1 will continue to support the choices families make. That is one thing this challenging situation will *not* change.

Gabriel

