



December 6, 2020

Dear Families,

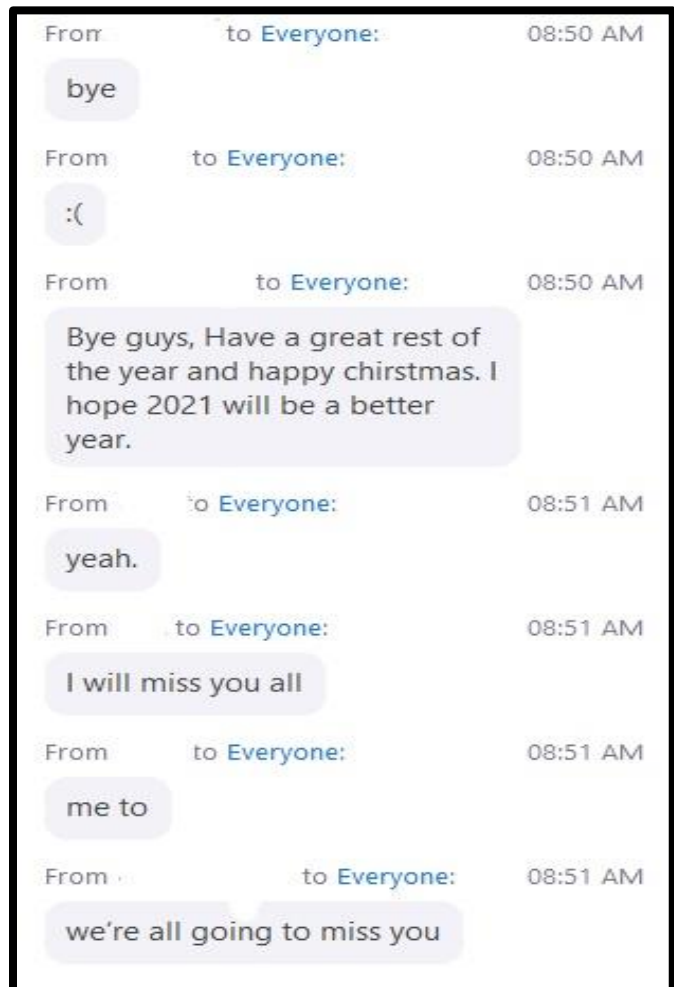
This letter has a few major pieces of information:

- Our school building re-opens Monday
- In-school COVID-19 testing will now happen every week
- Starting January 4, in-person learners will start coming to CPE1 five days per week

Having CPE1 children come five days a week is especially big news. You can read more below. But first, read this.

This is the chat from Rasheeda's Friday morning meeting with her fully remote class. Rasheeda's class discussed having five classmates switch from fully remote to in-person learning on Monday.

This is not the way things usually go at CPE1. In June, we have careful rituals to tell children which classes they will be in next year. Mid-year class changes are as unnatural to our school as seven year-olds typing their feelings into a chat. I feel bittersweet recognition seeing a child type, "I hope 2021 will be a better year." That's just what adults are typing these days. That's just what we're feeling.



At the same time, this chat is a reminder of what’s going right. These children have known each other for years. They have spent months together only on screens. Their connections remain. You have to have real relationships to miss each other.

I am sad that our children have to adapt so much. And, I am amazed by how well they adapt. This letter about changes ahead has to make us all appreciate again all the children who keep managing them.

Update on Re-Opening

New York City’s public elementary schools open up for children again on Monday, December 7. Here are the dates for each in-person class through the end of December:

		Patricia, Charlotte, Cecilia	Tia, Marilyn, Aishah, Simone
Mon	Dec 7	X	
Tues	Dec 8	X	
Wed	Dec 9		X
Thurs	Dec 10		X
Fri	Dec 11		X
Mon	Dec 14	X	
Tues	Dec 15	X	
Wed	Dec 16	X	
Thurs	Dec 17		X
Fri	Dec 18		X
Mon	Dec 21	X	
Tues	Dec 22	X	
Wed	Dec 23		X

Five Days a Week Starts January 4

On January 4, right after school vacation, *all* in-person classes will come to CPE1, five days per week. Not every school is able to do this. We are fortunate enough to have big classrooms and enough staff to do this. Of course, teachers and paras have to know how to use space purposefully. That’s not just being fortunate – that’s skill.

Moving in-person children to five days a week comes with a mix of emotion. It's exciting to have more children in person more often. We know that could change, because schools have shut down twice already, and it could happen again. We all still fear this pandemic. And, of course, we are not complete. A big part of our community will continue to learn at home.

COVID Testing Begins Weekly

Across the city, as part of elementary schools reopening, in-school COVID testing will happen once a week. CPE1's next test will happen on Monday, December 7.

At least 20% of students and staff are required to be tested. I am hoping we will test an even larger percentage.

Citywide, all students between first and twelfth grade are *required* to participate. The city has announced any student who does not have consent *must* be transferred to remote learning. If your child attends in person and does not have consent on file already, we will have consent forms available for signing at morning arrival.

Starting in mid-January, East Harlem Scholars Academy 2 will bring its middle school students back into our building. Charter schools are not required to participate in weekly COVID testing, but when I asked, East Harlem Scholars Academy 2 agreed to do so.

Pre-K and kindergarten students also are not required. I am asking as families of our early grades students to give consent nonetheless. More children tested adds another level of assurance for our community.

Not everyone is comfortable with younger children having a nasal swab in school, and this cannot be required. The swabs used in our school testing go just barely inside the nose, and our first graders have been okay so far. That gives me more confidence requesting younger kids participate with them.

Najah and Tina Out

Early this week, Najah has to leave CPE1 temporarily for surgery. (She doesn't want to talk about it, and would rather be at CPE1.) We expect Najah back around mid-

January. Please email me (gfeldbe@schools.nyc.gov) anything you might usually take to our parent coordinator, and I will try to help.

Recently, Tina was approved for accommodations related to COVID-19. That means she will be working from home. Tina will be coming into the building this week to prepare for a transition. After that, she will conduct counseling sessions and other work remotely. She works with fully remote students and families already. This week, she will be reaching out to the families of in-person students to set up a new schedule.

Invitation to District Discussion

This month, our school district, Community District Four, will be having two discussions to inform a districtwide vision for accessible and equitable education during this time when so many children are learning at home. The district's vision will be created with input from the community.

You are invited to participate. [Please click here to register to be part of the conversation and share your ideas.](#)

Parent Association Meeting – December 8 – 7:00 P.M.

The next CPE1 parent association meeting will take place on Tuesday.

This PA meeting has a later start than those in the past. Because we are not meeting in person, our school will not be providing child care – or dinner. To let families take care of that, remote PA meetings have shifted to 7:00 P.M.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2138220018?pwd=Ynd1VkREQjlsRU16alpUQytDa1VUT09>

Meeting ID: 213 822 0018

Passcode: 471217

CEC Meeting – December 9 – 6:00 P.M.

On Wednesday at 6:00, the District Four Community Education Council will be holding forum focused on this year's revised middle school and high school admission processes.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85919642717?pwd=TIRLY0F5TXQ3eXUxVEdNcTQ4Z3Z0UT09>

Meeting ID: 859 1964 2717

Passcode: 662122

Thanks again for staying involved through so much change.

Gabriel