



Central Park East I Elementary School

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September 21, 2020

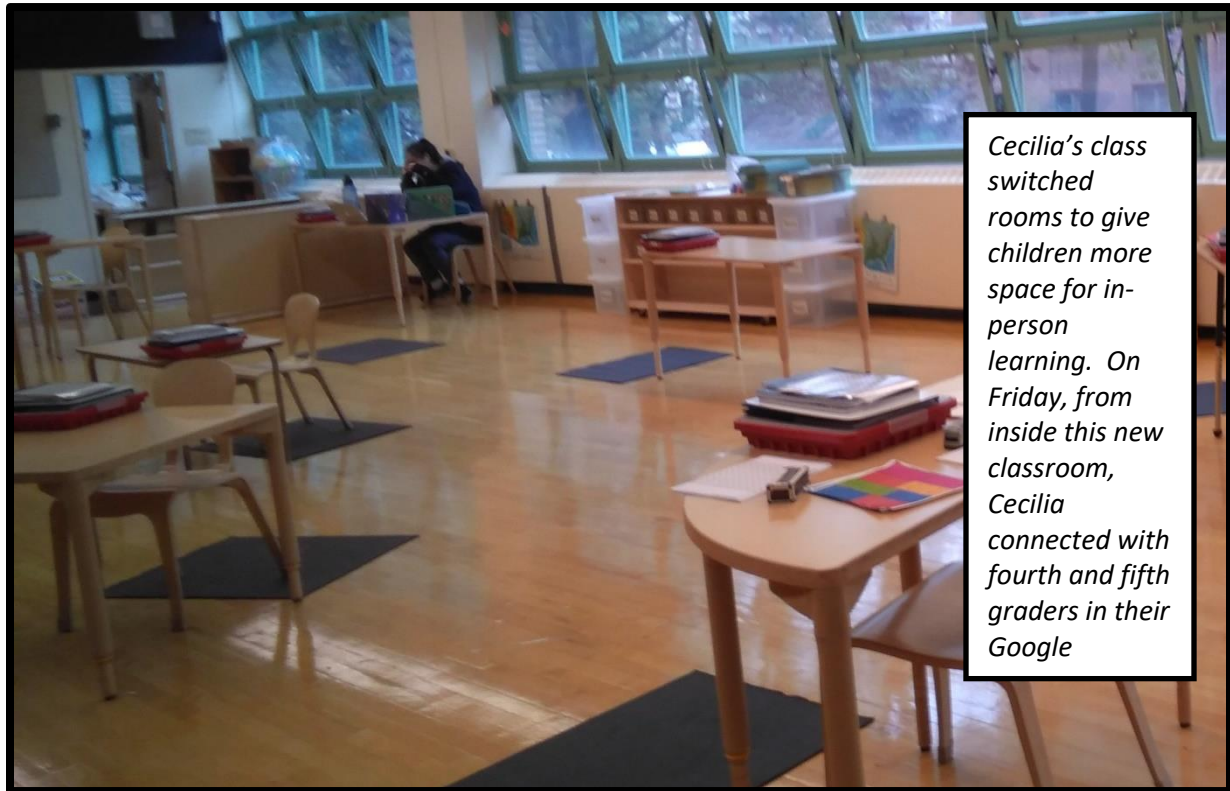
Dear Families,

On Thursday morning, the mayor and schools chancellor delayed the start of in-person school again. As of now, across the city, 3K and pre-K begin in person, with the rest of elementary school starting in person on September 29.

On Thursday afternoon, we set up a SmartBoard in the middle of CPE1's hallway so that all staff could listen in on the chancellor's presentation to principals about the schedule change. Then, we spoke (from a social distance) about what the delayed re-opening means for CPE1. Most staff who were present thought it makes things less confusing for families (and their childcare arrangements) to stay as close as possible to our original schedule. Therefore, here is what CPE1 will do:

- On Thursday, September 24, and Friday, September 25, Tia's in-person pre-K class will come to CPE1.
- On Monday, September 28, all in-person and remote schools are closed due to a holiday. There is no Google Classroom on this day off.
- On Tuesday, September 29, these classes come in person to CPE1:
  - Patricia's K-1
  - Charlotte's 2-3
  - Cecilia's 4-5
- From September 30 to October 2, these classes come in person to CPE1:
  - Tia's Pre-K
  - Marilyn's K-1
  - Aishah's 2-3
  - Simone's 4-5

If the city stays on track, Patricia's, Charlotte's and Cecilia's classes will have their first three-day week starting October 5.



On Thursday, I joined Gloria's remote pre-K for a Google Meets class. Her children participated online in a morning calendar routine. She held up two popsicle sticks as the class talked about being in school for two days. Even in this very irregular year, our three- and four year-olds start their mornings by exploring how to represent and keep track of time.

When children understand time and schedules, they have more control and choice. These citywide delays undermine that.

Especially if you chose in-person learning, please talk clearly with your child. Count the days until the expected first day in the school building, and be clear that things could change again. Please remind your child what not changed: CPE1's adults have been preparing for children; that we'll keep seeing each other in Google Classroom; and that, whenever we do get to see them in person, we'll be ready.

## Meeting for Families on Start of School

Our next meeting for all families to talk about re-opening will take place on Thursday, September 24. If everything stays on schedule, we will have Tia's in-person pre-K class then. That means will know a little more about the experience of children adjusting to this new kind of school.

**Date:** Thursday, September 24

**Time:** 6:00 P.M.

**Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87038463004?pwd=YjRWSTZOdmovY3JNazdJRmZYL204UT09>

**Meeting ID:** 870 3846 3004

**Password:** 111111

**Dial-In:** 646.558.8656

## Community Forum on School Re-Start

Our district's community education council invites you to a town hall with elected officials. Included on the panel will be Manhattan's borough president, Gale Brewer; our state assembly representative, Robert Rodriguez; and our city council member, Diana Ayala. More information will be announced soon.

**Date:** Thursday, October 1

**Time:** 6:00 P.M.

## Getting Ready for In-Person School

Each day, before children come in person to school, they have to complete a health screening. If you are bringing your child, you can get ready ahead of time.

Please go to <https://healthscreening.schools.nyc/>. Scroll down to get the daily screening questions on your phone. If you complete the screening at home, you can just hold up your phone when asked.

To support temperature-taking at home, the city has purchased thermometers for families. We will send with each child at the end of children's first day in the building. Check your child's backpack.

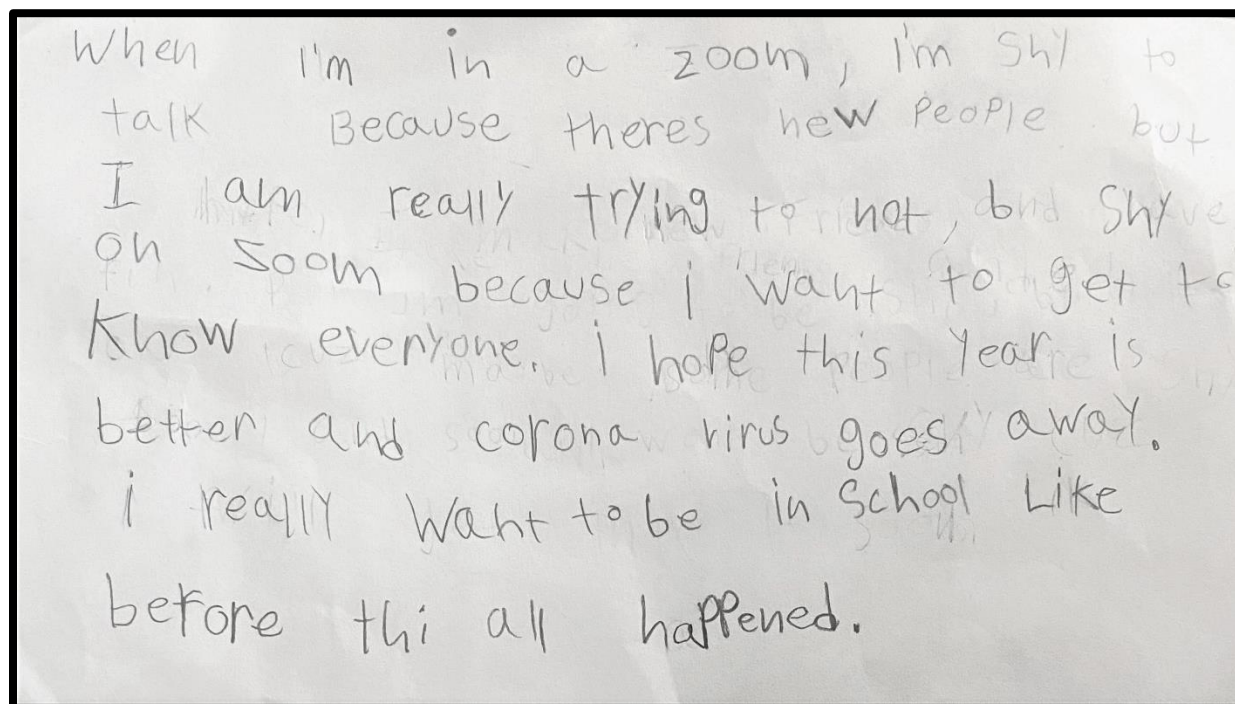
## Appreciation for Everyone Starting School

This is such a hard way to begin. It's late September, but no child has come to school in person. Changes keep happening. Technology can be hard to manage. Families are pressed for time.

We have to appreciate what has gone well. Most children are logging onto their Google Classrooms each day. Teachers and children are finding the rhythm of their schedules. Families have been patient and supportive. Our staff have put together packages of learning supplies, which most children who are learning 100% remotely have picked up already; those learning in person will take them home soon.

On Friday, Charlotte's class was meeting remotely. Even through a screen, children were reacting directly to each other's words. One child mentioned wanting to learn more about the solar system, which led another to ask how old the planets are, which led another to ask how old humans are. Charlotte did not answer questions, but let these second and third graders follow their wonderings and each other. It was a natural school conversation in an unnatural school setting.

One of the children was quieter. Later that day, the child wrote this reflection:



Most of us know that feeling. Talking through a computer can make anyone shy. This child still wants to know classmates, and has the same wish for school we all share. We all want to be in school like before.

For such an imperfect start, there is lots of good. We can see that as children express their wishes and wonderings.

Thank you to you, and to all the other adults who worked to get children to this beginning.

Gabriel

September 18, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. I am writing to you today with an important update on the start of school.

As you know, for months we have been preparing to reopen our school buildings. Thanks to all of you and everything you have done over the last six months, the city’s low infection rate makes us the only major city in the country able to welcome our children back to our schools for in-person learning.

Just as you have done everything necessary to reduce the COVID-19 infection rate, we have made a [pledge](#) to you that we would put health and safety first. That is what we have done – inspecting tens of thousands of classrooms for proper ventilation; distributing millions of masks, bottles of hand sanitizers and cases of cleaning supplies; prioritizing students and staff for expedited COVID-19 testing; developing a swift testing, quarantine, and tracing protocol anytime we might see COVID-19 activity in our schools; and more.

We must continue living up to that pledge as we get closer to opening our buildings, knowing that this year demands more supplies, more staff, more space, more inspections, and more training. To do that, we have some new updates on the school calendar to announce.

All students will still begin full-time instruction on Monday, September 21. School buildings will reopen to our students in blended learning (in-person in schools some days of the week, and remotely from home other days of the week) on a phased basis, detailed below. Here is the updated calendar for the start of the 2020-21 school year:

- Children enrolled in fully remote programs will still begin full-day instruction on Monday, September 21.
- Children in blended learning (in-person in schools some days of the week, and remotely from home other days of the week) will be learning remotely beginning Monday, September 21 until their in-person start date as outlined below. Please reach out to your child’s school if you have questions about when your child should report according to their blended learning schedule.

<b>Blended Learning Students Enrolled In:</b>	<b>In-Person Learning Begins On:</b>
<b>Grades 3K and Pre-K</b> (in any school type/grade configuration)	Monday 9/21
<b>District 75</b> (all grades)	Monday 9/21
<b><i>By School Type:</i></b>	
Students enrolled in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elementary Schools (K-5 and K-8)</b> (includes students in grades 6-8 in K-8 Schools)</li> </ul>	Tuesday 9/29
Students enrolled in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Middle Schools (Grades 6-8)</b></li> <li>• <b>High Schools (Grades 9-12)</b></li> <li>• <b>Secondary Schools (Grades 6-12)</b></li> <li>• <b>Transfer Schools, Adult Education, Evening Schools, Alternate Learning Centers</b></li> </ul>	Thursday 10/1
<b><i>Less Common School Types/Configurations</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students enrolled in K-2 and K-3 Schools</li> </ul>	Tuesday 9/29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students enrolled in K-12 Schools</li> </ul>	Tuesday 9/29

I know this is a last-minute change. This crisis has demanded so much flexibility and patience from you and your children since the beginning, and I am in awe of how you have risen to meet the challenges and uncertainty this pandemic has presented. Everything we do is to try to provide stability and certainty, while protecting the health and safety of our city.

I am deeply grateful every day for each of you, and the commitment you have shown to your children and this city.

So many of you have told us how eager you are to reconnect with your school communities – I know I am excited for that as well. We believe this extra time will help make sure that all schools and all educators are in the best position to deliver a strong, safe, and supportive environment for teaching and learning to take place.

I always say that New York City has the best students, staff, and families in the world, and nothing will ever change that—no matter when, where, and how we are learning.

Thank you for everything you do,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Carranza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "C".

Richard A. Carranza Chancellor  
New York City Department of Education