



February 5, 2021

Dear Families,

Friday was the ninetieth day of school. That means we are exactly half way through the 2020-2021, the longest of school years. That also means we still have half of a year to develop new strengths.

Here at the midpoint, teachers are working on a new way to report progress to families. Our new format has information about how children are progressing in reading, writing, math, work or project time, and social and academic behaviors. For each area, teachers are also writing possible next steps for the child.

Our new progress reports will not look like the lengthy narratives many CPE1 families remember from the past. They still won't look like traditional report cards. We won't try to sum up complex learning with a single grade or number.

Our new format aims to give a clear, concise view of each child's progress. During this unusual year, our descriptions of children will draw on documents special to our school: [Foundations of a CPE1 Student](#), which grew out of discussions of our mission statement, and [Stages of Reading](#), the reading assessment designed to fit our mission.

You will get this mid-year progress report by email on February 26. That will give you time to read it carefully before family conferences the following week.

Family Conferences Coming Up

Later this month, you will be able to sign up for family conferences. Across the city, elementary schools have evening conferences on March 3, and afternoon conferences on March 4. On March 4, CPE1 will dismiss students at 11:00.

As always, CPE1 has *family* conferences, which means the child fully participates in the discussion. Reflecting on their own work is one way children grow as learners.

If you want to set up a separate conversation with teachers, please reach out to teachers about meeting during this year's official 'office hours,' right after the school day ends.

Middle School Not Returning

East Harlem Scholars Academy, the charter school one floor above CPE1, came into the building in late January and quickly discovered two positive COVID cases. This week, they decided not to come back for the rest of the school year. We'll see Scholars once again in 2021-2022.

Vaccination Resource

If you want a COVID-19 vaccination, a great new website, <https://nycvaccinelist.com/>, has unified dozens of separate sign-up lists.

Right now, the majority of available appointments are for people who live in the Bronx. Soon, [vaccinations will be coming to La Marqueta](#), which is a short walk from CPE1. For now, please check <https://nycvaccinelist.com/> to look for new appointment times, and put the word out that people in the Bronx have lots of options.

Meetings This Week

On Tuesday, February 9, at 7:00 PM, the parent association of CPE1 has its February meeting. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82275217585?pwd=V2xTWWhmY0Y5a2x2bjBnV201Mnk5dz09>

The following evening, on February 10 at 6:00 PM, our district's community education council meets. The link for that CEC meeting is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82978282684?pwd=UGJkQzN1d3lwTHcvdlBqL0lKL21SZz09>

Right now, you, too, can run for a seat on a community education council. One CPE1 parent currently has a seat on our district's CEC, and it would be great to have more. [Please click here if you are curious about running for a seat.](#)

COVID Testing Update

Since January, schools have been given weekly targets for the number of COVID tests to give. Each week, principals receive an email that says, "Schools may not test above this testing threshold." At CPE1, that threshold is fifteen people.

Fifteen is not enough. Is it really public health policy to test *fewer* people? That won't make schools safer. So each week when the testing technicians arrive, I try to convince them to test as many people as time allows.

On Friday, our testing technicians arrived an hour before dismissal. It's amazing how many teachers, paras, and especially children you can test in an hour if everyone works together. We tested all but four eligible children. I also whispered to other people around the building that they should arrive when our children were exiting the second floor. Kitchen workers, custodial staff, and a crossing guard squeezed in tests after school.

We were allowed to test fifteen people. We tested sixty.

Whether you decided to stay fully remote or send your child to school, you thought long and hard about safety. Our families have made difficult choices, respecting their own health *and* the community's health. It honors everyone's choice to test as many people as we can.

Before officials examine the numbers and see that CPE1 is testing 'too many' people, I'm making it public: CPE1 plans to keep breaking this rule. If we get in trouble, I'll let you know, and you can tell our city how you feel.

Gabriel

