

March 22, 2021

Dear Families,

The city now will allow more children to move from fully remote to in-person learning. Between March 24 and April 7, families can switch from remote to in-person by clicking here.

Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control now reduce social distancing in schools from six feet to three. That allows twice as many people per classroom.

The city will be giving schools updated information about seating and meals in classrooms. In the meantime, CPE1 will encourage distancing. Wherever possible, we will stay closer to six feet apart than three.

The chancellor has sent families a letter about this switch. Read ahead to find Chancellor Porter's letter.

We will send out a reminder once the window to change from remote to in-person open on Wednesday. For now, remote families can think about whether they want to make a change. Our remote classes will continue as well, and remote students are very much welcome to keep learning from home.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

# **Update on Gifted and Talented Requests**

Our city's public schools no longer will use a screening test to determine if pre-K children are eligible for gifted and talented programs in kindergarten. This decision came when the Panel for Education policy rejected the testing company's contract.

Here is what we know about the process so far:

- Families request their pre-K child to be evaluated for gifted programming.
- Pre-K teachers complete a recommendation form from NYCDOE. (We do not know yet what that form will look like.)
- Eligible pre-K children will move onto a remote interview with NYCDOE staff.

- Children who qualify will be selected at random for seats in gifted programs.
- Students going into first, second, or third grade will be selected from old waitlists.

To apply to the gifted and talented process, pre-K families log into their child's New York City Schools Account (<a href="www.mystudent.nyc">www.mystudent.nyc</a>). Please note that CPE1 has no gifted programs, so joining a gifted program would involve changing schools.





March 22, 2021 Dear Families,

We just reopened high school buildings for in-person learning for the first time since November 2020, and I haveto say that the joy on our students' faces as they entered their school buildings was amazing. We are thrilled to see students of all ages safely learning in physical classrooms.

That is why I am very pleased to let you know that all our remote families will now have one more opportunity to transition to blended learning this school year. This means that if your child is currently learning remotely every day, they will be able to opt in to learning in person in the school building at least part of the week forthe remainder of the school year. We will make every effort to provide as many days of in-person learning as possible.

### When and How to Opt In to Blended Learning

- Beginning this Wednesday, March 24, you can visit the Learning Preference Survey at <a href="https://www.nycenet.edu/surveys/learningpreference">https://www.nycenet.edu/surveys/learningpreference</a> to select blended learning for your child.
- Families can also call 311.
- You can change to blended learning until Wednesday, April 7.

#### When Your Student Can Return to the School Building

- Students in district 3-K, Pre-K, and grades K-5, including students in District 75, who opt intoblended learning during this opt-in window will return to buildings in April.
- Students in grades 6-12 who opt into blended learning during this opt-in window will return at a laterdate, and we will communicate more details as soon as possible.
- Updates will be posted at https://www.schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus.

## Requirements for Returning to the School Building

- Please note that if you select blended learning for your child, you must submit the consent form for random COVID-19 testing by the first day your child begins in-person learning. You can submit your consent for testingone of two ways:
- Through your New York City Schools Account (NYCSA) under 'Manage Account', or
- Complete and sign the consent form available <u>here</u> and bring it to your child's school on the first day they are back in the school building.

Families that select blended learning are expected to have their child attend in person on days they are scheduled to do so.

Please note that if your child is currently learning fully remotely and you do not complete the survey indicating a preference for blended learning, your student(s) will remain fully remote.

We are able to offer this additional chance for fully remote students to opt in to learning in buildings becausethe U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its guidance, allowing us to safely accommodate more students in a classroom. As always, our focus is on the health and safety of your children, thededicated staff who serve them, and you—their family. That has been our priority since day one, and will continue guide everything we do.

Thanks to our strong health and safety practices—including wearing masks, hand hygiene, weekly random testingfor COVID-19, physical distancing, and more—our school buildings are among the safest places in the whole city.

Thank you, as always, for your faith and partnership. We continue to show the nation what is possible in terms ofsafely educating our one million students—and we couldn't do it without you. I thank you for your commitment and, in turn, I promise you that our commitment to your child is unwavering.

Sincerely,

Meisha Porter

New York City Schools Chancellor

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