



Central Park East I Elementary School

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May 14, 2021

Dear Families,

Our city has a new program called Summer Rising. Here are just some of the differences between Summer Rising and the usual New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) summer school:

<b>Traditional Summer School</b>	<b>New Summer Rising</b>
For students needing academic support	For all students who wish to participate
Grades 3-12	Grades K-12
Lasts five weeks	Lasts seven weeks
Four days per week	Five days per week
Runs 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.	Runs 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Several schools share one program	Each school hosts its own program
Just NYCDOE school staff	NYCDOE staff plus community-based organizations

Here are more details about the program:

- Summer Rising will be in-person only elementary schools
- Weekly COVID testing will continue
- Community organizations will supervise the afternoons, from 1:00 to 6:00
- Community organizations will supervise Fridays and the middle weeks of August, when teachers do not work
- Community partners will offer arts, trips, and lots of time outside
- Yellow school buses are available

- Children can attend Summer Rising programs in any school, not just the one they attend

All students can sign up until late June. **Please don't sign up yet.** There are three major reasons to wait:

- **We don't know if we can hire CPE1 teachers.** NYCDOE has not clarified this summer's hiring process. If our Summer Rising has CPE1 teachers, the program could be wonderful. (Imagine extra-long summer work time.) However, teachers from other schools might be sent to us. We won't know until June who will be teaching in July and August.
- **We don't know our community-based partner.** The city is choosing community organizations for schools. These organizations probably will have experience with after-school programs. We don't know which organization will be selected for CPE1, or what our collaboration will be like.
- **You actually *can't* sign up.** [Click here to explore Summer Rising programs.](#) For CPE1 and hundreds more schools still waiting for an assigned community partner, there is no sign up at this time.

I will share more details when we get them. If the program looks promising and CPE1 staff will be with our children, I will encourage many people to sign up. You have until late June to apply, so you do not have to decide right away.

## **Tell Us Your Plans for Next Year**

All CPE1 students are *guaranteed* a place at CPE1 in September. Realistically, not all children will be back. Especially because of the pandemic, some are changing schools, and others are moving out of New York City.

Soon, our whole staff will work together to make classes for next year. [Please click here to tell us your plans for next year.](#) The more we know each family's plans, the better our class-making will be.

Your child has a right to return to CPE1. What you share helps us prepare for children.

## **Rasheeda Returns**

On Monday, May 17, Rasheeda will come back from medical leave.

Ruben will remain with the remote 2-3 class through the rest of the year. Jazmine will continue with second grade math. Rasheeda will be working with small groups throughout the school day. That will give our remote 2-3 children extra support during the final weeks of school.

## **Rally Against AAPI Hate**

Many of our classes have been reading and talking in response to vile attacks against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Children are thinking about the rise in reported harassment and hate crimes across the nation, the city, and the neighborhood.

To balance painful news and hard conversations, children can participate in a show of strength. At 4:00 on Tuesday, May 18, Act to Change [has an online rally for National AAPI Day Against Bully and Hate](#). Guests include dozens of leaders and celebrities of Asian descent.

If your child has not been out to protest and stand up in person, an online rally is a good way to be inspired and be counted. [You and your child can register here](#).

## **Use Your Voice, Part One**

The annual citywide survey for public school families is now open. The city uses survey results to evaluate schools.

[Click here to start your survey](#). The survey will ask for your access code. Enter “f” followed by your child’s nine-digit student identification number (or OSIS). You can find that number in your New York City Schools Account, or email [najah@cpe1.nyc](mailto:najah@cpe1.nyc) for help.

## Use Your Voice, Part Two

Our school district, East Harlem's District Four, invites everyone to another one-hour brainstorming session this Thursday. The district wants everyone's input about how "to elevate youth voice and choice, infuse classrooms with joy, support social-emotional wellbeing, and create brave spaces for all youth to learn and grow."

[Register to speak at this "charette" by clicking here.](#)

## Changes in Masks and Vaccinations

This week, the Centers for Disease Control relaxed mask guidelines for fully vaccinated people. I am fully vaccinated, and I will keep wearing my mask at school for as long as our students must wear theirs.

Think ahead to September. What if the city ends remote learning before vaccines are approved for four year-olds? Our community includes people who cannot be vaccinated due to medical conditions or religious beliefs. Those of us who get vaccinated help protect those of us who can't, including, maybe, next September's pre-K children.

New York City just began giving free tickets (aquarium, zoo, botanical gardens) and MetroCards to those who get vaccinated. You can make an appointment [by clicking here](#) or calling 877.829.4692. Or, you can just walk in.

[Click here for a list of walk-in vaccination sites in all five boroughs.](#) This week, you can get walk-in vaccinations at four East Harlem locations. To get a shot for a child between the ages of twelve and eighteen, look for sites offering the Pfizer vaccine.)

Not everyone could trust the vaccine right away. There are many reasons that so many have waited. If you have been waiting, this may be the right time to start.

Gabriel