



REOPENING PORT CHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS FALL 2021

Click on a topic to learn more.

[In-person Learning](#)

[Mask Mandate](#)

[Random Surveillance Testing](#)

[Vaccination](#)

[Quarantine Protocol and Instruction](#)

[Physical distancing](#)

[Travel](#)

[Chromebooks/Classroom Technology](#)

[Temperature Checks and Screenings](#)

[Visitors](#)

[Polycarbonate Barriers](#)

[Fans and Windows--Ventilation](#)

[Sharing of Equipment](#)

[Lockers](#)

[After school programs](#)

[Accessing Social-Emotional and Mental Health Supports](#)



In-person Learning

All students are expected to attend school full-time, in person, daily. Those with medical problems which necessitate a student learning from home will be asked to complete a Remote Alternative Instruction Request Form, along with their healthcare provider. They should keep in mind that the alternative instruction will be, at most, a limited two-hour long daytime program and not a full day of remote teaching. In accordance with CDC guidelines, “returning to in-person instruction in the fall of 2021 is a priority.” With all of this in mind, families and healthcare providers will be asked to assess the risk/benefit of not attending in-person school.

Mask Mandate

The baseline of our multilayered COVID-19 prevention strategies is that all who are in our buildings will be wearing masks. This mask mandate is regardless of vaccination status. Mask breaks will be permitted when physical distancing of 6 feet or more is being maintained or when one is outdoors.

Random Surveillance Testing

Like many other Westchester school districts, we will be participating in a partnership with the Westchester County Department of Health, one in which all returning students and staff who opt in will be tested in the first days of school, followed by random testing each week of 20 percent of the school population who have opted into testing. The surveillance testing will be a saliva-based test, and sample collection will be able to occur at home to be brought into the school for submission to the organization running the testing. Families will be notified if a child tests positive. We encourage all families and employees to opt-in to this random surveillance testing to keep our schools as COVID-free as possible.

Vaccination

All over the age of 12 are eligible to receive a FDA-approved vaccine that will provide protection from severe disease resulting from COVID-19. We encourage everyone who is eligible to obtain a vaccination, and we will be sponsoring vaccination drives in our schools this fall to support the effort.

Quarantine Protocol and Instruction



Individual students who need to quarantine will keep up with their schoolwork by being in contact with their teacher(s) and following along with the Google Classroom Page(s) of their teacher(s), just as if they were sick for a number of days. If a student is required to quarantine, their teacher(s) of record will provide work and remote learning opportunities during the quarantine. Students will be allowed to make up any work that they miss as a result of an absence due to quarantining, and students will have up to 10 days following their return to class(es) to make up the work missed. Teachers are encouraged to be understanding of these instances and cooperative with students/parents who reach out to them during and after a quarantine period. If a whole class needs to quarantine at the elementary level, then the class will pivot to remote instruction for all provided by their teacher(s).

Physical Distancing

Schools will maintain 3 feet of physical distance between masked students where feasible. To maintain a safe flow of student traffic, some stairwells will still be labeled Up Stairwells or Down Stairwells to reduce two-way traffic in these areas, and some hallways may be divided to indicate one-way traffic flow.

Travel

At this time, the NYSDOH has not issued any travel restrictions. However, plan travel with your safety in mind and avoid regions where there are high levels of transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Chromebooks/Classroom Technology

Chromebooks will be in carts for classroom use for grades K-3 initially. Students in grades 4-12 who need a device will be given a Chromebook and charger to take back and forth to school and home. Students in grade 3 will be given a Chromebook and charger to take home a few weeks later. Classrooms will not be livestreamed, but students will be utilizing Google Classroom as well as other instructional apps in class where appropriate.

All students at Port Chester High School will need to carry with them every day a fully charged Chromebook or laptop and the charger for that device. Port Chester High School will issue a Chromebook to any student who does not have their own device and these devices will be used daily in all classes.

Temperature Checks and Screenings



In the interest of keeping students and employees healthy and safe, we will continue to check the temperature of anyone entering our school buildings. A Student, Employee, and Visitor Health Notice at the entrances to each building will remind those attempting to enter to not do so if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19, or been in contact with anyone who has had symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19.

Visitors

We discourage visitors whose presence is not required in school buildings. Please call ahead or email us to schedule appointments as necessary if you need to visit a school building.

Polycarbonate Barriers

Polycarbonate barriers will be used in indoor cafeteria facilities where students are unmasking in order to eat. They will no longer be used on student desks in classrooms.

Fans and Windows--Ventilation

Child-safe fans in classrooms may be used to circulate fresh air from open windows. Unit ventilators should remain on to provide a mix of fresh air and filtered air from the classroom. Teachers are encouraged to open windows to provide fresh air and to open doors to create cross ventilation. All rooms used for instruction currently have adequate air supply and ventilation.

Sharing of Equipment

Equipment and classroom materials may be shared. Frequent hand washing and sanitizing is encouraged along with cleaning equipment in between uses.

Lockers

Use of lockers by students at the middle school will be limited to before or after school, and lockers will not be used by students at the high school. For details, please reach out to your principal.

After school programs



We believe after school programming is essential to help students overcome the challenges of lost instruction during the pandemic, to provide enrichment activities, learning recovery and support, and other opportunities for the children we serve. A robust after school program at each elementary school is being developed, and after school opportunities at the Middle School and High School are already in place. Additional after school opportunities will be brought online over the course of the year for secondary students, especially assistance focused on academic support.

Accessing Social-Emotional and Mental Health Supports

In elementary schools, the point of contact to assist families in obtaining social-emotional and mental health supports for children is the school's Community School Coordinator or School Psychologist, depending on the school. Those names and contacts are listed below:

King Street School: Ms. Alexandra Martin, 934-8037 amartin@portchesterschools.org

John F. Kennedy School: Ms. Maryam Castro, 934-8093, mcastro@portchesterschools.org

Park Avenue School: Ms. Lilya Endres, 934-7898, lendres@portchesterschools.org

Thomas A. Edison School: Ms. Maribel Vasquez, 934-7894, mvasquez@portchesterschools.org

At Port Chester Middle School and High School, each student is assigned a School Counselor who is the go-to person for student and family support. A child's School Counselor is an expert in servicing student and family needs, including referrals to psychologists, social workers, and other professionals.

Port Chester Middle School:

Ms. Smook	934-7937	ksmook@portchesterschools.org
	Grade 6 Crawford Academy	
	Grade 7 Columbus Park Academy (Entering, Emerging, and Transitioning English Language Learners)	
	Grade 8 Sawpit Academy	
Mrs. Piccolino	934-7938	lpiccolino@pcrufsd.org
	Grade 7 Washington Park Academy	
	Grade 7 Columbus Park Academy (Students whose last names begin with Q-Z)	
	Grade 8 Edgeland Academy	
Mr. Sarcone	934-2994	rsarcone@pcrufsd.org



Grade 6 Lyon Park Academy

Grade 6 Tamarack Tower Academy

Grade 7 Columbus Park Academy (Students whose last names begin with A-G)

Mr. Ortiz 934-7883 mortiz@portchesterschools.org

Grade 7 Lifesaver Academy

Grade 7 Columbus Park Academy (Students whose last names begin with H-P)

Grade 8 Waterfront Academy

Grades 6-8 Del Bianco Academy

Port Chester High School:

Ms. Clay-Williams 934-2948 vcclaywilliams@portchesterschools.org

Students whose last names begin with A, B, F, W, X, Y, and Z

Ms. Denise Bonilla 934-7963 dbonilla@portchesterschools.org

Students whose last names begin with C, D, and E

Mr. Darwin Gramajo 934-8018 dgramajo@portchesterschools.org

Students whose last names begin with G, U, V, and English Language Learners in Grade 12

Mr. Santos Avila 934-7961 savila@portchesterschools.org

Students whose last names begin with H, I, J, K, L, P, and Q

Ms. Marta Sandoval 934-7959 msandoval@portchesterschools.org

Students whose last names begin with M, N, and O

Ms. Stacey Cafaldo 934-7960 scafaldo@portchesterschools.org

Students whose last names begin with R, S, and T

Ms. Yudelca Martinez 934-8040 ymartinez@portchesterschools.org

Students who are English Language Learners in Grades 9, 10, and 11

In addition, all of our student support professionals will be receiving training this year from Cognitive Behavior Consultants, an organization headquartered in White Plains who works with many school districts in our region to provide training to student support staff. Their website is <https://www.cbc-psychology.com/>. CBC offers a continuing education program in the form of a range of workshops and seminars for health professionals, educators, and administrators. Dr. Alec Miller is the founder of the organization and will be in charge of providing the training for us. The school contact is Ms. Christine Rascona, Middle School Assistant Principal ([a video overview of DBT training](#)).