



Pearl River School District

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April 16, 2021

Dear Pearl River School Community,

On Monday, April 19, 2021 our schools will move from hybrid to in-person, while retaining the availability of remote learning for families that wish to continue learning in that model. Schools are making their final preparations for the full return and we are all eager to welcome students back and support them through this transition. We are excited for this change and are very hopeful for more good things to come for all of our students.

The most recent update in guidance from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) published in the Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools allows school districts to make decisions on the reduction of social distancing in schools after considering transmission rates, and a “local community’s risk tolerance based on its unique circumstances.”

As our full return to school progresses, we will carefully monitor for any signs of in-school transmission of COVID-19 and we will be prepared to respond as needed. This is particularly important for grades 7-12 as the CDC and NYSDOH makes a distinction between younger and older students in terms of transmission of the virus. The NYSDOH recommends working with local health departments to “recognize warning signs that the level of COVID-19 transmission may be increasing in the school setting beyond an acceptable level, as defined by state and local health departments”. (NYSDOH Guidance Document, April 9, 2021) We will work closely with the Rockland County Department of Health and will be prepared to act promptly, in a measured way, to respond to any indication of an in-school transmission of COVID-19.

There may be new challenges ahead and bumps in the road as we re-start our schools at a capacity that we have not seen since March 2020. We are grateful for the support and patience of the district community as we transition to this next phase together.

Sincerely,

Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed. D.