
Hillery Park Elementary School



Home of the Huskies

Monthly Messenger

February 1, 2021

The Return of the Huskies

The poet Maya Angelou is credited with saying, “every journey begins with a single step.” Our journey back to normalcy begins February 1st. The first step will be to return approximately 130 of our students in grades PK-2 along with students in our NYSAA program. We are thrilled to be welcoming these students back to school for in-person learning.

I want to share with all of our parents to procedures and protocols which will be followed during this process.

1. **Daily COVID-19 screening:** every student and staff member who enters our building must have completed a questionnaire which requires parents to answer the following questions for their student:

- I. Has the student or a member of the student household tested positive for a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 10 days?
- II. Has the student experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours:
 - a. fever or chills • cough • shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • fatigue
 - b. muscle or body aches • headache • new loss of taste or smell • sore throat
 - c. congestion or runny nose • nausea or vomiting • diarrhea
- III. Within the past 10 days, has the student been in close physical contact (6 feet or closer for at least 15 minutes) with a person who is known to have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19?
- IV. Has the student traveled to states or areas designated by NYS as “high risk” for COVID-19 transmission?
- V. *Individuals returning to New York from states on the Travel Advisory List must quarantine for 10 days from their last date
- VI. Temperature is/or exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit

This is an electronic document which will be completed on a tablet, iPad, phone or other computer device. Parents simply answer the questions and hit send. If you answered yes to any of the questions above, please do not enter the building; if your temperature is/or exceeds 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit contact your Primary Care Physician.

This screening tool is offered for informational purposes to help you check for COVID-19 symptoms as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control. Based on your self-reported answers, the tool will provide a response to be used by us.

Mrs. Nasca is sending a link to this document in a separate email.

2. Transportation: By now all students who are using BPS transportation have received their pick-up time and location. If you have not please call the Transportation Department immediately. Students will not have an option for temporary passes. **Transportation hotline: 816-4895.**

3. Arrival: Our building opens at 9:00am.

Students who are using district transportation will be escorted into our **Main Entrance** by bus. We will be checking to make sure students are wearing their masks properly and remain socially distanced as they enter the building.

Students who are not using district transportation will use the **Pawnee Pkwy. Entrance**. Students should not begin lining up outside prior to 8:50am. Outside the entryway we have X's painted on the ground and will also have cones which are spread 6 feet apart. At 9:00am when the doors open students will enter single file. Staff will be present to escort students into the building and make sure masks are on properly.

4. Temperature Checks: Temp checks will occur for all individuals entering the building. We have two thermal check kiosks. One is located in the main foyer and one in the gym. Students arriving via district transportation will have their temp taken in the Main Foyer. Students arriving at the Pawnee Entrance will have their temp taken in the gym.

- Any student demonstrating a high temp will be escorted to a waiting room where a 2nd temp check will be conducted by one of our nurses.
- Any student exhibiting a high temp a 2nd time will lead to a call home and students will need to be picked up immediately.

5. Other symptoms: Students exhibiting flu or cold symptoms should remain home. If they exhibit these symptoms while at school they will be moved to a nursing station and we will be calling to have them picked up from school and taken to seek medical treatment. These symptoms include:

- Fever or chills---Cough---Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing---Fatigue--- body aches
- Headache---Sore throat---Congestion or runny nose---Nausea, vomiting or Diarrhea

If a student is sent home, they will not be able to return to in-person learning until cleared by a medical professional. This could be a pediatrician, nurse practitioner or other health provider. We will require written documentation from a health provider.

6. COVID Testing in Schools: NY State law mandates 20% of students and staff be tested per month in order to continue in-person learning. Parents can help us meet this mandate by allowing students to be tested for COVID. If a parent agrees, their child will be part of the pool of students who may be selected to receive a non-invasive rapid test. Results are provided within 15 minutes of the test. Results are confidential and individual results are made known only to the family.

- If a student tests positive, they will be monitored in an *isolation room*, while we contact parents, family or guardian. The student will be made comfortable in a secure area under the supervision of a member of our health clinic administrator.

- The “isolation” part means only that no other students or staff will be in this area while we wait for the child to be picked up. If no family members or assigned designee is able to pick up the student, an ambulance will bring the child to a local emergency room.

Isolation Room: The isolation room will be reserved for students who test positive for COVID.

- If we have no positive tests the room can be used as an additional waiting room for students who are going to be going home for the day.
- The isolation room will be supervised by a member of our clinic or administrative team.

7. Result of a positive COVID case in school:

- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, any students or staff member who has been in close contact with that individual will be notified and will be required to quarantine for 7-14 days (This will be determined by the Erie County Department of Health.)
- A close contact of a positive COVID-19 is defined as any individual who was within six (6) feet of an infected person for at least ten (10) minutes starting from 48 hours before the onset of COVID-19 symptoms.
- Close contacts will be determined by the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) and notified through contact tracing.

8. Breakfast and Lunch: Breakfast will be part of the homeroom routine for in-person learners.

- Breakfast will be delivered to the classroom and eaten at the students’ desks.
- Students will be expected to learn to clean up after themselves and have good hygiene and cleanliness lessons reinforced in the classroom.
- Students in grades PK-2 and NYSAA who remain remote should use the 9am-9:30am homeroom period to sign on to Schoology and view the daily announcements.
- Lunches will be served in the cafe for all grades K-2 and NYSAA. Students will have an assigned desk which are separated by 6 feet. Pre-K will have their lunches delivered and eat in their classrooms.
- Students will be escorted into the cafe and through the lunch line while maintaining 6 feet of separation. We will have markers on the floor which indicate proper spacing and the correct direction for proceeding into the cafe, through the lunch line, to their desks and out of the cafeteria.
- Lunches and Breakfast will continue to be available for the community as they have been every M, W, F from 11:00am -1:00pm

9. Dismissal: the dismissal process will begin at 3:15 for grades PK-Grade 2.

Walkers:

- Students who are walkers will be waiting in the gym and separated by grade level.
- At 3:25 we will begin releasing students to their parent or designated adult outside.
- We will take names and check ID’s outside the Pawnee entrance.

- We will use radios to communicate between outside and the gym.
- Each grade level will have a staff member assigned to escort students to the gym.

Students taking bus:

- We will begin calling buses at 3:35pm.
- We will call 2 buses at a time to reduce the traffic and confusion.
- Each classrooms will have a staff member assigned to supervise and escort children to their bus.

If a parent decides they are going to pick a child up, rather than have the student take the bus, we require that a note be sent in with a phone number which we can call to confirm or require that a phone call is made to the main office prior to 2:00pm.

We will not guarantee that we can pull a student from transportation if that request comes after 2:00pm.

10. In-person Instruction: Each classroom has a limited number of students who can be placed in a classroom while maintaining social distance. Therefore, three of our teachers will have their classes dived between two rooms.

- In Kindergarten, Mrs. Wojcik will have students in two separate classroom while in grade 1, both Mrs. Koch and Mrs. Pawlowski will have students in two separate classrooms.
- To help our students and teachers, we will have teacher assistants and teacher aides assigned to these classrooms to ensure students receive the support they need.

All of our K-2 teachers are going to be challenged to provide concurrent instruction for students who are in-person as well as those students who are learning remotely.

Concurrent Instruction: Teaching students in-person and virtually simultaneously.

It's no secret the pandemic has changed how we teach and how we do school. Schools and districts across the district will offer several options to students and their families, including the Hybrid Education model, completely virtual education, and traditional in-person learning. Our teachers are responsible for finding ways to effectively deliver instruction for those students who attend school in-person and those who are at home learning virtually simultaneously.

Teachers are feeling the pressure of this concurrent teaching model—where they are responsible for providing equitable education for students in-person and online simultaneously—especially since they have been offered little to no training or preparation (Ali, 2020).

This is a new instructional model and will take time for teachers to master.

However, students have already grown familiar with the concept of some lessons being synchronous and others being asynchronous. This blending of modes will continue both for students who are remote and those which are in-person.

I am asking parents to remain patient with our teachers and school as we work to develop our skills.