



PERTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent of Schools

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Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Dear Perth Amboy School District Community,

I hope this correspondence finds you and your family well. I am writing to update and reassure you that the district is working hard to plan for the safe reopening of schools in September 2020.

As per the Governor's release of "The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education" on June 26, 2020, all New Jersey school districts must develop a plan about the reopening of schools. To that end, the district established a Restart Committee, which included district and school-level administrators, school board members, local education association representatives, educators, parents, students, and community leaders representing a cross section of the diversity within the school community. The district conducted surveys and collected input from all stakeholders to make informed decisions.

In addition, the district established school-based Pandemic Response Teams that will assist with the implementation of The Restart and Recovery Plan for Education at each school. Each Pandemic Response Team includes a cross section of administrators, teachers and staff that reflect the diversity within the school.

As you can imagine, creating the plan has been a dynamic process due to changes in guidance as a result of the evolving nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff continues to be the number one priority in the development of the district's Road Back Restart and Recovery Plan.

The planning process has been created to ensure the following standards and considerations are in place under the *Conditions for Learning* section referencing the critical areas of operation identified by the New Jersey Department of Education in the Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan.

- **General Health and Safety:** The health and safety of all students and staff continues to be the tenet of any conversation regarding the opening of schools in September 2020. We are aware that students and/or staff may have questions, concerns, or requests for accommodations. Rest assured that each concern/request will be considered on an individual basis and that all mandated requirements will be adhered to. The district will make every effort to follow the social distancing guidelines provided by the Center for Disease Control and other health organizations to every extent possible.
- **Masks:** Students and staff will be required to wear masks during the school day. The district will be providing staff and students with a washable mask at the beginning of the school year. All visitors will also be required to enter any district building wearing a mask and/or proper face covering.

- **School Uniforms:** Please note that school uniforms will still be required throughout the 20-21 school year.
- **Facilities' Cleaning Practices:** A myriad of additional disinfecting products, as prescribed by the CDC and health organizations, have been purchased to increase the level of cleanliness needed to ensure the health and welfare of students and staff. For example, the district has developed a plan to increase cleaning of high touch point areas. We have purchased additional electrostatic sprayers to quickly sanitize various educational environments. Additionally, we have purchased hand-sanitizing dispensers for all classrooms, bathrooms, and common areas.
- **Classroom:** Each classroom has been measured to determine proper social distancing parameters. We are in the process of securing a plexiglass shield for every classroom to facilitate small group instruction.
- **Signage:** There will be signs affixed to walls and floors to ensure social distancing guidelines. Signs encouraging proper handwashing techniques and other safety precautions will also be posted throughout the building.
- **Transportation:** The district has developed various plans in an attempt to transport students in a safe yet effective manner. With that said, we must announce that we are unable to provide "courtesy transportation" throughout the 2020-2021 school year, as our focus will be on mandatory routes to ensure the integrity of social distancing to the best extent possible. As a result, some students' arrival and departure times may change as we continue to finalize our transportation routes. However, our staff work hours remain the same.
- **Student Flow, Entry, Exit, and Common Areas:** Plexiglass dividers have been purchased for every security and main office desk area. Hallway flow patterns for students and staff movement throughout the building have been developed to promote a minimal amount of contact. Visitors and parents should refrain from coming to the school unless it is absolutely necessary and without proper advanced notice.
- **Screening of Staff and Students, Protective Personal Equipment (PPE), and Response to Staff Presenting Symptoms:** As per the Governor's announcement, some traditional roles may change. The district is developing policies and protocols to allow for flexibility with all staff roles. All students and staff will be screened each morning upon arrival using thermal scanning technology or handheld forehead thermometers. Our nursing staff will be given additional protective personal equipment when interacting with students and/or staff who may show signs of the virus. An isolation room has been designated at each school for students and staff who may show symptoms.
- **Contact Tracing:** The district will continue to work with the county department of health to identify any student or staff member who may have contracted the virus, or come into contact with someone who has. All contact tracing will be managed by the County Health Department.
- **Meals:** Lunch for students and staff will also be significantly different to adhere to social distancing protocols. All students will be served breakfast and lunch during the school day. Students and staff must wash their hands before and after eating. Teachers will be entering their breakfast and lunch count into Infinite Campus to ensure an accurate count of meals given out.
- **Recess and Physical Education:** The district has completed an inventory of our outdoor spaces to ensure that students can participate in physical education and recess while adhering to social distancing guidelines. In addition, procedures have been established to sanitize equipment after each use. As locker rooms will be closed, we encourage students to wear comfortable clothing and safe footwear to school so that they can participate in physical education classes without the need to change.

- **Extra-Curricular Activities and Use of Facilities outside School Hours:** The health and safety of our staff and students is a primary concern as we discuss these options with our community groups. We will work with Principals to develop an appropriate timeline as to whether or not we will have any “in house” after school programs, clubs and activities.
- **Social Emotional Learning:** The district is committed to providing academic, social and behavioral support that will optimize conditions for teaching and learning when schools reopen in September 2020. The district has previously implemented the NJ Department of Education social and emotional competencies and NJ multi-tiered system of support and will continue to do so.

Next in the planning process, was to ensure the following standards and considerations are in place under the section referencing *Continuity of Learning* as identified by the New Jersey Department of Education in the Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan.

- **Ensuring the Delivery of Special Education and Related Services to Students with Disabilities:** The Department of Special Services is committed to ensuring the implementation of Individualized Education Programs (IEP) to the greatest extent possible for all students with special needs. Supplemental technology resources have been identified to support unique learning needs. In addition, the Child Study Teams are currently conducting evaluations throughout July and into August to ensure students who were referred for services prior to remote learning in March receive services that may be warranted for the upcoming school year.
- **Technology and Connectivity:** The district has ensured that every student in grades K-12 has access to a Chromebook device so that they are able to engage in remote learning instruction. The district is also planning to upgrade devices as needed and will be providing WiFi hotspots for families that do not already have Internet access at home. We are working diligently to ensure all staff and students are prepared to go “all-remote” at any given time.
- **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment:** In planning curriculum, instruction, and assessment for reopening, the district will focus on building staff capacity to deliver highly effective instruction in both a hybrid environment or an all-remote learning environment. The focus will be on addressing standards and skills that students must know to be successful in the next grade level. We are aware that learning loss inevitably occurred since the sudden close of schools back on March 16, 2020. Therefore, our goal will be to address any learning gaps while addressing the grade-level New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs).
- **Professional Learning:** The district is committed to providing professional development on the following main areas: teaching and learning remotely, standard based instruction, accelerated learning to mitigate learning loss, and preparing and supporting educators in meeting the social emotional and health needs of students. Professional development on health and safety and other COVID-19 related matters will be provided for staff and students as needed.

Based on the aforementioned considerations and standards, the district was able to develop the following hybrid models for the 2020-2021 school year. Please note that a lot of thought, energy, and reflection was given to develop the plan. We are aware that no model will fully meet the needs of each family within the school community, but we strongly believe that we have made the best decision possible within the circumstances and guidelines provided. Maintaining consistency in Pre-K through 12th Grade was always a consideration; however, this became a difficult task in the current environment and with the current restrictions. Therefore, different schedules had to be developed for Pre-K Schools, Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, and High School. Scheduling siblings to attend in-person instruction on the same days will be considered.

- **AB Daily Full Day Schedule for Students in Prekindergarten:** In this model, prekindergarten students are split into two (2) equal groups: Group A and Group B. Group A will have in-person learning for a full day on Mondays and Tuesday, while Group B will participate in remote learning from home. Group B in-person learning on Wednesdays and Thursdays while Group A participates in remote learning. Fridays will be an all-remote learning day for every student. For a sample schedule, [click here](#).
- **ABC Full Day Schedule for Elementary Students (Grades K-4):** In this model, elementary school students are split into three (3) groups: Group A, Group B, and Group C. Group A will attend in-person instruction for a full day, while Group B and Group C will participate in remote instruction. In this model, students are in school for one day, remote for two days, and then the cycle repeats. During in-person instruction days, students will follow a “regular school day schedule.” They will have breakfast and lunch at school. For a sample schedule, [click here](#).
- **ABC Full Day Schedule for Middle School Students (Grades 5-8):** In this model, students are split into three (3) groups: Group A, Group B, and Group C. Group A will attend school for a full day in-person instruction two days a week on a rotating basis while Group B and Group C are learning remotely. This schedule will rotate throughout the month. For a sample schedule, [click here](#).
- **ABC Full Day Schedule for High School Students (Grades 9-12):** In this model, students are split into three (3) groups: Group A, Group B, and Group C. Group A will attend school for a full day in-person instruction two days a week on a rotating basis while Group B and Group C are learning remotely. This schedule will rotate throughout the month. For a sample schedule, [click here](#).

Please note that a video presentation of the schedules will also be available for your convenience on the district website and will air on PATV (Comcast-Channel 34 / Fios-Channel 47) within the next few of days.

As announced by Governor Murphy, school districts across New Jersey will be expected to offer parents a choice on whether they want their children to participate in the hybrid model or in all-remote learning. The Perth Amboy Public Schools will accommodate parents' requests and preferences with the understanding that parents who choose the “All-remote” option will not be able to come back to the hybrid model for the first marking period. However, extenuating circumstances will be considered. Please note that in “All-remote” option means that your child will have his/her teacher conducting live instruction using a virtual platform. On Thursday, August 6, 2020, you will receive correspondence from your child’s respective principals regarding next steps. At that point, you will be asked to complete the “All-Remote Registration Form” no later than **Wednesday, August 12, 2020**. **If you do not complete the form, your child will automatically received a hybrid schedule.**

Other Reopening Items

School Calendar: Please note that the 2020-2021 school year calendar has been modified. Instead of having four days of professional development days at the beginning of the school year, we will have three days. **The first day of school for staff will be Wednesday, September 2, 2020. Students’ first day of school will be on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.**

Communications: The district will continue to share new information on a rolling basis as the details of our district reentry plan takes shape and as we get any additional or revised direction from the state. It is important to remind everyone that all plans are subject to change in this continually fluid situation, and we may be compelled to adjust our plans at any time.

Athletics/Extracurricular/Afterschool Activities: New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) will help guide and inform decisions regarding student athletic programs.

School-based Information: Prior to the start of the school year, principals will be sharing with you specific information as it pertains to each building (drop off and pick up procedures, student schedules, orientations, and other school-based events and expectations).

We are confident that the school district will be able to deliver a comprehensive educational plan that best meets the academic and social-emotional needs of our students. The district will make every effort to follow the guidelines provided by the Center for Disease Control and other health organizations to every extent possible.

We thank you in advance for supporting our efforts to make safety a top priority. We kindly ask that you continue to learn about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Prior to the reopening of school, we also ask that you prepare your child for the upcoming school year by getting him/her accustomed to wearing a face mask, demonstrating proper hand washing hygiene, and ensuring that a clean mask is ready for each day in the school building.

The past four months have been unlike any we have encountered. We acknowledge the gravity of this situation and the impact our decisions will have on students, parents, and staff members. We will keep you updated as new information becomes available or of any changes that arise due to the dynamic nature of the situation.

Thank you for your continued support, collaboration, and understanding as we strive to do what is best for ALL of our students and employees during these challenging times.

Please note that if you have any further questions or require additional information you can contact your building principal using the contact information on the following page.

Sincerely,

Dr. David A. Roman 8/5/2020

David A. Roman, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Perth Amboy Public Schools



PERTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Perth Amboy Board of Education

Administrative Offices
178 Barracks Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6200; Fax: (732) 826-2644

Perth Amboy High School (Gr 10-12)

300 Eagle Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6030; Fax (732) 347-8930
Principal: Mr. Michael Heidelberg
Email: michheidelberg@paps.net

Freshman Academy - East Campus (Gr 9)

680 Catherine Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6000; Fax: (732) 347-8964
Principal: Mr. Keith Guarino
Email: kguarino@paps.net

Freshman Academy - South Campus (Gr 9)

351 Mechanic Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-5471; Fax: (732) 347-8955
Principal: Mr. Keith Guarino
Email: kguarino@paps.net

Personalized Learning Program (Gr 9-12)

178 Barracks Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6240; Fax (732) 638-1045
Principal: Mr. Francisco Velez
Email: fvelez@paps.net

Samuel E. Shull Middle School (Gr 5-8)

380 Hall Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6060; Fax: (732) 638-1013
Principal: Ms. Melissa España
Email: mespana@paps.net

William C. McGinnis Middle School (Gr 5-8)

271 State Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6040; Fax: (732) 347-8940
Principal: Mr. David Loniewski
Email: davioloniewski@paps.net

Rose M. Lopez School (Gr K-2)

435 Seaman Avenue Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6270; Fax: 732-347-8976
Principal: Mr. Edwin Nieves
Email: edwinieves@paps.net

Dual Language School (Gr 3-8)

630 Amboy Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837
Phone: 732-376-6090; Fax: (732) 347-8947
Principal: Mr. Jose Santos
Email: josesantos@paps.net

Anthony V. Ceres School (K-4)

445 State Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6020; Fax: (732) 638-1024
Principal: Mr. Derrick C. Kyriacou
Email: derrykyriacou@paps.net

Dr. Herbert N. Richardson School (K-4)

318 Stockton Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6010; Fax: (732) 638-1040
Acting Principal: Dr. Vivian Rodríguez, Asst. Superintendent
Email: vivirodriguez@paps.net

Edward J. Patten School (K-4)

500 Charles Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6050; Fax: (732) 347-8950
Principal: Ms. Lauren Marrocco
Email: laurmarrocco@paps.net

James I. Flynn School (K-4)

850 Chamberlain Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6080; Fax: (732) 638-1028
Principal: Dr. Regina Postogna
Email: regipostogna@paps.net

Robert N. Wilentz School (K-4)

51 First Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone (732) 376-6070; Fax: (732) 347-8970
Principal: Ms. Briony Carr-Clemente
Email: bcarrclemente@paps.net

Edmund Hmielecki, Jr. ECC (PreK)

925 Amboy Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-5460; Fax: (732) 638-1035
Principal: Dr. Gerarda Mast
Email: geramast@paps.net

Ignacio Cruz ECC (PreK)

601 Cortland Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6250; Fax: (732) 638-1020
Principal: Ms. Susan Roque
Email: susaroque@paps.net

School 7 ECC (PreK)

163 Patterson Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6252; Fax: (732) 347-8960
Principal: Ms. Susan Roque
Email: susaroque@paps.net

Adult School

178 Barracks Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: (732) 376-6242; Fax (732) 638-1045
Principal: Mr. Francisco Velez
Email: fvelez@paps.net