



Elmont Union Free School District

CULTIVATING SCHOLARS AND GLOBAL CITIZENS

KENNETH ROSNER
Superintendent of Schools

August 2020

Hello Elmont Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health. I'm reaching out to give you an update on the District's reopening plans for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Last week, the Board of Education approved the District's Reopening Plan that is now posted to the District website. The hybrid plan provides in-school instruction for all grades, Pre-k-Grade 6. The Plan reflects the strict guidelines set forth by the CDC, NY State Department of Health, and the Nassau County Health Department. We have prioritized our youngest learners, our students with special needs, including our ABA scholars.

The Board of Education has approved, at my request, a new start date for the beginning of the school year. **Thursday, September 10, 2020 will be the first day of classes for our students.** This is a Thursday, and based upon our three-day/two-day split, only students in grades 4-6, students in self-contained special education classes, and ABA students will report to school. Students in grades K-3 will also begin on **Thursday, September 10, 2020**, however, they will learn remotely from home. Those families will be receiving the information for this remote learning. **The first in-school session for grades K-3 will be Monday, September 14, 2020.** The change in start date will enable the District to conduct quality professional development for all staff members.

We are creating virtual classes for all students whose parents chose full-time remote learning. Your child's teacher will contact you during the week of September 2nd and provide you with all the necessary sign-in procedures, schedules, and curriculum material to begin the remote learning. We have strengthened the remote learning program and it will closely mirror the rigor and content of our in-school program.

On Wednesday, September 9, 2020, all schools will take part in a virtual tour of the classrooms for our parents/guardians for every classroom teacher. Parents will be contacted by their child's classroom teacher and be given the zoom codes for a virtual tour and a meet the teacher session. We hope that this will help ease the transition back into our schools.

I would also like to take a moment to say thank you. I appreciate everyone who has taken the time to email or call the District and those who have stepped forward to have their voice heard during our re-entry meetings. It is evident that, while opinions differ, everyone has one thing in common – they are passionate about our children and the future of education in Elmont. I empathize with teachers who are anxious and parents, guardians, and students who are frustrated, as we all contemplate how to reopen schools smoothly during a pandemic. I agree with the District's Health Advisory Committee, which emphasizes that reopening plans must be driven by safety and science. Our decisions are also driven by data, research and community input.

While I believe that our educators did a remarkable job with distance learning in the Spring given the very limited notice they received, the disruption caused by closing schools on March 13th has been difficult for all students. For all children, the lack of social interaction is isolating. We, as a District, will be focusing on the children's social emotional needs on a daily basis.

I encourage you to visit www.elmontschools.org to review the District's School Reopening Plan. This document, approved by the Board of Education, explains how decisions were made and how we will move forward in the best interest of our students and staff. During the month of August, we will focus on incorporating into our Plan, the latest information from our District and Nassau BOCES health and safety experts, as well as from our curriculum experts here in the District.

The School Reopening Plan also addresses the accomplishments the District has made in achieving a one-to-one ratio of iPads for all students in grades K-6. We are also making progress to make free or low-cost Wi-Fi much more accessible than it was in the Spring.

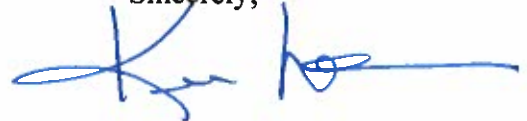
I know with certainty, that there is no one-size-fits-all plan. My hope is that despite your concerns, you will encourage your children to make the best out of this situation. You are your child's first and most influential teacher and we value your partnership in this endeavor. This situation is challenging, but it is not forever. This is a time to open our hearts and come together in support of our entire community, especially our children. To our parents and guardians who will be home with your children, and helping to ensure that your child is learning, please remember your child's teacher is only an email or phone call away.

I will keep you updated throughout the school year and I welcome your feedback. Please feel free to forward any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Reopening Plan to September2020@elmontschools.org. This email is monitored daily and a response will be returned to you quickly.

Thank you for your patience and I look forward to a successful and safe school year.

#ElmontStrong&Smart

Sincerely,



Kenneth Rosner

**** Please note: starting times have changed.
All schools will start 40 minutes later than their usual start time.
Dismissal times remain the same.**

School	Start Time**	Dismissal Time
Alden Terrace	8:45 am	2:25 pm
Clara H. Carlson	9:35 am	3:15 pm
Covert Avenue	9:50 am	3:30 pm
Dutch Broadway	9:15 am	2:55 pm
Gotham Avenue	8:45 am	2:25 pm
Stewart Manor	9:50 am	3:30 pm

/ab