

The Brooklyn Public Schools

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Brooklyn Public Schools' Reopening Update August 6, 2020

[Connecticut COVID-19 Response](#)
[Northeast District Department of Health](#)
[Brooklyn Public Schools Website](#)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Good afternoon. I hope that this communication finds you well. It was only four days ago that I sent the last letter. Thank you to so many of you who completed the survey that I sent home. This letter is to announce that Brooklyn Public Schools will be returning to school under the hybrid model of instruction. The reason we will start the school year under the hybrid model is to ensure that we are able to achieve 6' physical distance in the classrooms and increase space on buses and to keep students and staff and our community healthy.

Brooklyn Public Schools' hybrid model will be as follows:

Students with the last name beginning with A-K (in grades PK, K 1, 3-8) will be in **Group A**
(grade 2 A-L) will be in Group A

Group A will attend school in person Mondays and Tuesdays, remote learning Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Students with the last name beginning with L-Z (grade 2: M-Z will be in **Group B**

Group B will attend school in person Thursdays and Fridays, remote learning Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

If you have multiple children in your home but they have different last names, they will be attending school on the same day. If they fall into two different "Groups" please feel free to email one of the school secretaries to verify which session your household will attend school. Mrs. McCallum or Mrs. Corvello will be able to assist you: mccallum@brooklynschools.org or corvello@brooklynschools.org. We have aligned this to some of our designated high school schedules. If the schedule creates additional hardship and you would like to request your group be changed we will try to honor requests when we can. The purpose for breaking up the groups as we did was to align to older siblings and to evenly divide the classes, so we may not be able to honor requests.

I understand that this is NOT ideal and I would have loved to return to school full time. There are many variables that we are working with and I am unsure how long we will remain in this model. As I have said previously, we will pivot to different models as needed. I will try to provide as much notice as possible when changes occur. I would like to thank that by taking these measures, our schools will stay healthy and we will not have to enter into a full distance learning model. We will be prepared on any day to change from in person to distance learning or from hybrid to in person! Given this model, we should not need to "cancel" school because we have students who can learn from home, unless we have a power outage that is widespread across Brooklyn! I am sorry for those who are still without power from this storm.

Mission: The Brooklyn Schools will foster a drive for learning within each student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its educational programs and services to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.

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I have attached an updated calendar that has been edited until the end of November. We may end up back in school or in full distance learning before then. I will update it as needed. I have attached more information with sample schedules for distance learning. The instruction will be very different than it was last year including a specific schedule. Every day students will check in with a teacher, attendance will be taken, work will be graded and report cards will reflect attendance and work completion.

Some parents have chosen to “opt out” and participate in our distance learning model only. That is fine. Any parent who wishes to change to or from an “opt out” model may do so. We are reviewing class cohorts and bus routes. Please let us know if you intend to make any changes as soon as possible to assist us to create the safest class sizes and bus routes we can.

Please stay tuned for more information to come home to verify your child’s assignment. We will also prepare to distribute Chromebooks to families who are in the B Group because the first two days of school for your children will be remote. The first day of school is August 31st for K-8 and September 1st for preschool.

The Brooklyn Public Schools and the Brooklyn Parks and Recreation will work together during this pandemic to offer childcare to families who are still working and may need to send their children to childcare. Parks and recreation is coordinating this and will be sending information out about this. They will continue to offer their before and after school program, the “drop off” 8:30-9:15 program as well as developing a pandemic childcare program.

Despite all of these changes and challenges, we will be very happy to have your children return to school and to get back to what we do best, teaching and learning!

Have a wonderful day and enjoy the rest of your summer. Stay tuned for more emails and follow us on Facebook: Brooklyn Public Schools, CT to see videos of what school will be like when students return and to see any other notices or updates.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Buell
Superintendent

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