



All learners achieving individual potential

Forest Hills Public Schools

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Dan Behm, Superintendent

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Dear Forest Hills Families,

I am eternally grateful for your support, collaboration, and patience throughout this past school year as we all navigated the challenges and uncertainties of a global pandemic. The purpose of this letter is to share with you what we see for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Given the great news we have all seen with respect to our collective efforts to combat the spread of this virus, we have confidence that the upcoming school year will look and feel very close to a normal school year. Here are some specific details:

- **A full year of in-person learning** - Hybrid and remote learning schedules will not be used given the changes in quarantine guidance for schools, the very low level of cases, and the high rate of vaccination in our area. Expect school to operate on a full, daily schedule with 181 days of in-person instruction. The first day of school for students is Monday, August 23 and is a full day. For the 2021-22 school year calendar, visit our [website](#).
- **No more quarantines** - Students who are deemed “close contacts” in a school setting to someone who has COVID will no longer be required to quarantine. Instead, these students and their families will simply be advised to monitor for any symptoms.
- **Mandates expiring** - We expect no more mandates for face coverings, daily electronic health screening, social distancing, cohorting (restricting students to limited groups), weekly antigen testing for student athletes, or indoor/outdoor gathering limits for groups of people. While no longer mandated, local and state public health officials recommend that unvaccinated individuals continue to wear a mask in indoor public settings.
- **Vaccines** - Vaccinations are now widely available for anyone age 12 and older. Predictions remain consistent that vaccines may be available for elementary-aged students in the fall (possibly September). COVID vaccination is not required for school attendance.
- **School access** - Access to school facilities and events for parents, families, and visitors will return to pre-pandemic protocols.
- **Virtual learning options** - We know that some students may still require a virtual option given unique medical conditions. While statewide rules for providing such a program remain unclear at this moment, we want to continue to support students who require such an option. Watch for additional information coming soon.
- **Student activities** - Students will be able to engage in our full scope of athletic, enrichment, and extracurricular activities before and after the school day.
- **Positive cases** - While public health officials expect positive cases of COVID to be far more infrequent, people who do test positive will need to stay home until symptoms subside.

These expectations are based upon COVID cases remaining at low levels. Public health officials expect case levels to remain very low due to the protective effects of vaccinations and antibodies derived from prior exposure. Public health and medical officials strongly encourage people to get vaccinated or to consult their doctor if they have questions about the vaccines. Our local community continues to show high rates of vaccination that exceed the county and state averages.

I know that this past year was a significant challenge for all of us. My sympathies are with those families who lost loved ones and my thoughts are with those who continue the journey to full health. There is not enough time to express our gratitude to all of our families and neighbors who serve in the health care community. We are forever grateful for your selfless service and sacrifice. Finally, I am deeply grateful to our teachers and staff members for their service this past school year. With everyone's collective efforts, we were the largest school district in the state to offer the most days of in-person instruction throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

I look forward to the 2021-2022 school year as a time filled with promise, joyful learning, growth, and gratitude. Until then, I wish you and your family a great summer!

With deep appreciation,

Dan Behm
Superintendent