

# MS 447 Re-opening Town Hall

September 1, 2021

# Agenda

- Welcome and Preface
- Addressing your questions
  - What we know (and what we don't know)
- New Questions

# Types of Questions

- Building Cleaning and Ventilation
- PPE (protective equipment)
- Physical Distancing
- Vaccinations
- Entry and Dismissal
- Random Covid Testing
- Positive Cases and Quarantines
- Classroom and School Closures
- Remote Instruction
- Screens and Tech Needs
- Overview of Instructional Approaches
- Special Education/Related Services
- Social-Emotional/Trauma support

# Building Cleaning and Ventilation

- Daily cleaning and nightly electrostatic spraying
- Two air purifiers in every classroom
- Windows open (dress warm in winter!)
- Building ventilation includes intake and exhaust in classrooms

- Daily cleaning in high-touch areas (door knobs, light switches, etc.)
- Air purifiers: 2 per classroom
  - We have requested more for smaller classrooms
- Winter
  - Heat will be on, but windows will remain open

# PPE

- Masks
  - Required by everyone, everywhere
  - Mask breaks
- PPE on hand
  - Surgical masks
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Wipes
  - Gloves
  - Limited face shields and KN95 masks

- NYS & NYC is mandating masks in schools (except when eating)
- Mask breaks
  - Socially distanced (by yourself in the hallway)
- NO gaiters, bandannas, or masks with air valves
  - Masks etiquette will be discussed to all students and staff members
- Last year, students complied to masks on! We rarely had issues with students not wearing masks
- Surgical masks available in main office/entry, hand sanitizer in every room
- KN95 masks limited to staff members who are escorting sick students

# Physical Distancing

- Classrooms - 3 ft where possible
- Lunch - 3 ft and smaller groups
- No cohorting

- “Where possible”
  - This is possible in a few of our classrooms, but not in all
  - We will do our best to keep students as physically distant as possible
- Lunch
  - 1 Period for each grade: Periods 4, 5, 6
  - Each grade will be split into 2 spaces during their lunch period (cafeteria, courtyard)
- No cohorting = No “A” or “B” Day like last year
  - Students do NOT stay in the same room all day; they will travel to their different classrooms
  - For the MOST part, they are with the same group all day, with exception to: talent classes, lunch

# Vaccinations

- Adults: Required first dose by 9/27
- Kids ages 12+: not required by highly encouraged
- Kids under 12: Not yet eligible
- Pop-Up vaccine site at school in the first week
- Keeping track of vaccinated people

- ALL teachers, staff, custodial staff, cafeteria staff, contractors, and after-school staff, need to have their first dose by 9/27
  - They will submit their proof of vaccination to a portal
  - Unsure what happens to a staff member who is unvaccinated by 9/27
- For students that are 12 years or older, vaccinations are NOT required (only highly recommended) at this moment.
- Pop-up vaccine site, first week of school: Mon 9/13-Fri 9/17 (except Thursday, school holiday)
  - Probably Pfizer, because this is the vaccine allowed for 12 year olds
  - Kids can get vaccines with parents present
- NYC Schools Account: make sure you have access to your account! (contact Amy, parent coordinator at [asirot@ms447.org](mailto:asirot@ms447.org) if you need help with this)

# Entry and Dismissal

- Morning entry:
  - line up at 500 Pacific St. at ~8:10-8:20
  - Breakfast outside
  - Health screening
    - Paper or phone app, at home, with temp
    - Paper at school/we will take temp
- Dismissal
  - 2:50 (if not staying for office hours)
  - 6th grade: Dean Street, near 3rd Ave
  - 7th and 8th grades: Pacific Street

- Morning
  - 8:10 is the earliest entrance
  - Free breakfast provided, NOT in the cafeteria, but outside at entrance
  - Health screening (must be completed by ANYONE entering the building)
- Dismissal
  - Regular dismissal = 2:50
  - Optional Office Hours = 2:50-3:30 (Tues, Wed, Thurs)



# Random Covid Testing

- Every other week
- 10% of unvaccinated people
- Families must complete consent form (on NYCSA)

- 10% of unvaccinated people = 6th graders, some 7th graders, some 8th graders
- Please complete consent form on NYC Schools Account page; otherwise, you will receive a consent form in the mail
- Regardless of vaccination, all students will receive same treatment and privileges at school

# Positive cases and quarantines

- From random testing or family-reported
- DOE Situation Room / NYC Test and Trace
- Close contacts identified and notified
- School community notified
- Unvaccinated close contacts
  - Must quarantine (10 days)
  - Can return early at Day 7 with negative covid test
- Vaccinated close contacts
  - Do not quarantine unless symptomatic
  - Encouraged to get a covid test in 3-5 days

How do we find out about positive cases?

- Through testing at school, OR
- A family reports a positive case to the school
  - \*\*\*Please inform 447 IMMEDIATELY if your child receives a positive COVID test

What is the DOE Situation Room?

- The office that determines classroom/school closures

How are close contacts identified and notified?

- 447 will determine close contacts based on student schedules and notify those staff members/students/families

# Classroom and School Closures

- Investigation and determination made by the Situation Room
- School community notified
- Four or more cases triggers DOHMH investigation

- Students and families that are close contacts will be notified of positive COVID cases
- If more than one student in the same class test positive, it has not yet been determined whether that triggers deeper investigation

# Remote Instruction

- Configuration of remote instruction in case of classroom quarantine
  - Still under negotiation
- Google Classroom
  - All course sections will have a Google Classroom
    - Information and materials for quarantined students
    - Set-up at start of year

- At this moment, DOE has determined NO remote option for families
- IF classroom closures require remote instruction:
  - If ALL students must quarantine, remote instruction may happen live and on zoom
  - If SOME students are vaccinated and are able to still attend school, but other students in the same class must quarantine at home, quarantined students will have access to information/materials on Google Classroom, but LIVE instruction is not guaranteed at this moment

# Screens and Tech Needs

- Emphasis on off-screen activities in school
- No need to bring in devices
- Everyone needs internet and a device at home (Complete tech survey!!)

- We are limiting tech usage while students are at school
- We will provide a device and/or internet if your child needs it! (Fill out the tech survey ASAP, whether or not you have these things!)

# Overview of Instructional Approaches

(both in-person and remote)

- Teacher teams
- Mastery Based Grading
- Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies across all subjects
- Project-based learning
- Interdisciplinary learning
- Clear and organized assignments
- Timely and useful feedback
- Office Hours

- Mastery Based Grading
  - Informational Workshop next week! Thurs, Sept 9
- Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies: Ghody Muhammad's "Cultivating Genius"
- Teachers are looking forward to getting to know their students much better this year!

# Special Education/Related Services

- ICT and Nest configuration
- Related services in person
- IEP meetings
- Additional support

- 447 is now 100% ICT
  - This means ALL academic subjects will have 2 teachers in the room (1 General Ed + 1 Special Ed)
- IEP meetings may be remote OR in-person
- Additional Support
  - 447 has 2 interventionist teachers
  - We are reinstating our Math and Lit labs this year for small groups/skill-building

# Social-Emotional/Trauma support

- Small pack structure
- Daily pack meeting
- Advisory weekly
- Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies across all subjects
- Family communication systems
- Counseling (mandated and at risk)

- 447 Packs!
  - We will continue meeting in our small pack groups daily!
  - Pack leaders will introduce themselves to students/families before Mon. 9/13
  - Your child's pack leader is also their advisor
- Counseling
  - Counselors are available for any students who need support!



# To Do/Next Steps

- **Families:** Complete our tech survey ASAP
  - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIJ59c0f37EL4w\\_voRjD\\_M2fgKnyuqcalqG-4xbeOD5IY5A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIJ59c0f37EL4w_voRjD_M2fgKnyuqcalqG-4xbeOD5IY5A/viewform)
- **Families:** Look out for 447 and DOE emails
- **Pack Leaders:** Introduce themselves to their students and families (Sept 9-12)
- **Families:** Email [asirot@ms447.org](mailto:asirot@ms447.org) if you have questions/concerns

# Q & A

## Other Questions & Answers from the meeting:

1. Can 7th graders self-dismiss?
  - a. NO students can self-dismiss; only an adult from their Emergency Blue Card must come sign them out.
2. Can we get contact lists from students in the same neighborhood to connect students to commute together?
  - a. We cannot send ALL students' info out, but we can send out surveys to students to opt-in to be part of a list that gets sent out
  - b. Parents who would like to volunteer to help this out, please notify our PTA!
3. How will classes be named this year?
  - a. 601, 602, 603... 701, 702, 703... 801, 802, 803... etc for classes
  - b. Packs will be broken up into smaller groups of the class, i.e.: 601A, 601B, 601C, etc.
4. Will after-school increase their chances of exposure?
  - a. Short answer: yes
5. Can parents request students/friends to be in same class/pack?
  - a. If it's a real, extenuating circumstance, maybe... however, this year, programming is particularly difficult, so we would rather not.
6. Is there an ASD NEST 6th grade orientation?
  - a. 6th grade orientation occurred remotely in June

- a. Our whole first week of school is "Welcome Week!" (Community building, learning the school building, meeting your teachers/other important people in the school, etc.)
- 2. Will there be any data of percentage of students vaccinated?
  - a. We don't know.
  - b. What we know: ALL 8th graders are eligible, about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of 7th graders are eligible (anyone born Jan-August 2009)
  - c. IF every eligible student got vaccinated at our school, that would be ~50% of our entire student population
- 3. How many students in each pack?
  - a. Between 8-11 students per pack
- 4. What school supplies do we need to buy?
  - a. Masterlock, and reusable water bottle
  - b. 447 officially will not send out 'supply list' and will provide most supplies for students; more information here:  
<http://ms447.org/supply-list-2021-22/>
- 5. Will students be sharing lockers?
  - a. Yes, but we will monitor to ensure physical distancing
  - b. Lockers are assigned by class
  - c. Shared lockers will use ONE lock (and they will share the combination)
- 6. How will bussing work?
  - a. We are unsure if DOE will fill buses to capacity
  - b. We have 6th grade bussing (or a metro card) for all eligible students
  - c. Buses will be intending to get to school by 8:30 (when school starts)
    - i. This is tricky at the start of the year, so please plan for alternative transportation at least for the first week or 2 of school!
  - d. If students are late because of bus, there is a code that shows that student's lateness is due to bussing
- 7. Will there be late buses for office hours?
  - a. We used to, but doubtful at the moment.
- 8. Is this a 5-day or 6-day schedule year?
  - a. 447 will be a 5-day schedule this year!
  - b. What does this mean for expo?
    - i. Students will have 1 double expo + 2 single expos each week.
    - ii. When expo classes need to go off-site, expo teachers will put the date in the calendar in advance to notify other teachers
    - iii. So far, DOE is not allowing field trips; however, we are figuring out ways to take our classes on walking trips in the

i. neighborhood

2. Will there be a make-up overnight trip for 6th graders?
  - a. Unsure because of field trip restrictions by DOE this year
3. Will there be MTA passes for students?
  - a. Yes, if they are eligible!
4. Will my student have the same pack leader and pack as last year?
  - a. No. Last year we had multiple cohorts, but this year, we are all in-person, so we have rearranged all packs and pack leaders.
5. Will NEST students also be moving from class to class as well?
  - a. Yes, they are fully included into their classes and receiving SDI instruction in small groups in-person.
6. Will students have the option to stay in their classroom for lunch?
  - a. No, because there won't be supervision. In normal times, there would be multiple places for students to go (lunch clubs, etc); however, this year, we have to monitor more closely where students will be.
7. For immunocompromised students, can there be accommodations made for them for lunch?
  - a. Please reach out to: Lisa Bell [lbell@ms447.org](mailto:lbell@ms447.org) and ask about a Medical 504
8. Once my incoming 6th grader starts attending school on his own, if he doesn't show up, will parent be notified?
  - a. Yes! You will get a robocall.
9. How does a parent join the PTA?
  - a. Think about an executive position on the board (which may all be currently occupied at the moment), but all parents are welcome to participate! Keep an eye out for emails on how to join.
10. When will my student know their schedule and classes?
  - a. It's late this year because we were unsure about remote options, group sizes, etc...
  - b. Pack leader will email student and family before Monday, Sept 13!
11. Can students use phones in school to call parents?
  - a. No! We have a no cell phone policy at 447 (if you must bring it to school, it must be turned OFF and put away!). If a student needs to contact their parents, they can ask their teachers to go to the main office to phone home.
12. How will my student be enriched in an ICT classroom?
  - a. We believe that there is no educational reason that a student who wants to push ahead couldn't do so in an ICT classroom. Teachers will meet all students where they are, through grouping, materials, and through our Math Labs and Lit Labs.

1. Will classes be disinfected between classes?
  - a. No, they will be disinfected at the end of each school day.