

Miller Place Union Free School District

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, New York 11764-2036
Telephone: (631) 474-2700 Fax: (631) 474-0686

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July 31, 2020

Re: Reopening Schools September 2020 Plan Highlights

To the Miller Place School District Community,

The District's Reopening Schools September 2020 Plan has been posted on our website and can be viewed at the following link: [MPSD Reopening Plan as of July 31, 2020](#)

This plan will serve as the framework for the practices and procedures that will be implemented to reopen schools for the 2020-21 school year. Please note that this plan has not been developed to address every single possible scenario that we may encounter over the next 11 months. Each New York State school district is developing plans based on the variables associated with their school district logistics. Therefore, school district plans may vary greatly based on their constraints, challenges and opportunities for specific implementation.

For those of you who may not have the time to read the entire 32 page document, here are some of the highlights:

MASK/FACE COVERING: Wearing a mask/face covering will be required by all staff and students. This includes on school buses, in common areas of school buildings, and in classrooms during instruction. Students will not be required to wear a mask according to a developed mask break schedule or when they are eating/drinking. There is a provision for parents to submit medical documentation regarding a child who may not be medically able to wear a mask for extended periods of time.

TRANSPORTATION: Transportation will be provided with social distancing to the best of our ability. As noted, students will be required to wear a mask/face covering.

FOOD SERVICES: Food services will be available for all K-12 students, as well as food options for free and reduced lunch.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHEDULE: We will start the school year with five-day on-site instruction, as long as the governor permits such a schedule. We anticipate average class size to be 17 students. If Governor Cuomo does not allow full on-site instruction for our K-5 students, they will be placed on a hybrid model of two-day on-site instruction, one-day live remote instruction and two-day remote learning. The hybrid model allows for a full day of instruction with approximately 50 percent of our students on-site each in-session day, for an average class size of 11.

SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHEDULE: We will start the school year on a hybrid model of two-day on-site instruction, one-day live remote instruction and two-day remote learning. The hybrid model allows for a full day of instruction with approximately 50 percent of our students on-site each in-session day.

SELF-CONTAINED SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHEDULE: As long as the Governor permits, we will start the school year with elementary students five days, on-site instruction and secondary students four days on-site instruction and one-day live remote instruction.

MEDICALLY QUALIFIED ONLINE LEARNING: Vulnerable students who medically qualify to participate in fulltime online learning may be offered a program facilitated by District personnel, Eastern Suffolk BOCES or home tutoring instruction.

HOME SCHOOLING: If you are planning to home school your child for the 2020-21 school year (parent provided instruction), please immediately contact your child's principal so he or she can assist you to begin that process. Information regarding home schooling can be found on the District's website at the [MPSD Home Schooling Webpage](#).

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS: The District is taking safety precautions that include, but are not limited to, social distancing, education regarding the importance of wearing a mask, temperature health screenings, medical isolation rooms for ill students, no visitors allowed in the buildings, no drop off of items to students during the school day, appropriate signage to serve as safety reminders, and enhanced cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing procedures. Additionally, PPE (including face shields) will be available as appropriate for staff, hand sanitizing dispensers have been installed next to the hallway door for all classrooms, hand-washing stations have been purchased, elementary desk shields have been ordered, and paper towels will replace hand dryers in bathrooms.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING: Programs will be developed to assist our students and staff returning to school.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS: We anticipate SCOPE will offer this program to our K-5 families, following all health and safety protocols of the District, and we anticipate SCOPE will offer a Pre-K program to our families, following all health and safety protocols of the District.

We have begun the process of pivoting to Google Classroom and configuring laptop devices for our staff and students.

We expect there may be needed adjustments throughout the school year, including the first day for staff and students, but they are unknown at this time.

We extend our gratitude to the 136 staff members and parents who served on the District's task force and subcommittees, meeting weekly, to discuss reopening school topics and provide feedback from the various constituent groups within the school community.

The District looks forward to sharing additional information with our school community over the next 11 months as confirmed information becomes available regarding our schools.

If you have a question, please feel free to email us at reopenschool@millerplace.k12.ny.us as it is our intention to use those questions to develop a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section on the [Reopen Schools Information page](#) on the District website.

Recently we asked parents to complete a survey regarding reopening schools in September. The survey results can be viewed at the following link: [Parent Survey Results](#)

On behalf of the Board of Education, we thank you again for your anticipated cooperation, patience and understanding as we implement new procedures and protocols, some of which will be very difficult and unforeseen. We remain Panther Strong.

Respectfully,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools