

2021-22

SCHOOL OPENING OVERVIEW

We believe in-person learning is vital for students' academic success and emotional well-being.

Having carefully evaluated the guidance released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Westchester County Department of Health and the New York State Education Department, and in light of various mandates from the New York State Department of Health, we believe all Hendrick Hudson School District students can safely return to the classroom five days a week, with some additional safeguards in place.

Safety

We will implement mandates as directed by NYS Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the Westchester County Department of Health, and the New York State Education Department to minimize risk and ensure a safe learning environment.

Support

We will prioritize access to academic, health, and social and emotional supports for all of our students, including those who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Collaboration

We believe in the importance of the whole community being actively engaged in our schools and supporting student success. Throughout the year, we will solicit stakeholder feedback. We will be responsive to new data and make adjustments as needed.

Joy

We believe that joy is a powerful antidote to stress and a necessary part of child development. We commit to safely restoring the activities and interactions that make school a joyful place.

The following outlines our plans to keep students safe, academically engaged, emotionally supported, and joyful.

Instruction

Students will receive in-person instruction five days a week.

- Schools will follow a consistent schedule aligned with traditional school hours.
- Special education programs and services will be delivered in-person and in accordance with each student's Individualized Education Program as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.



Physical Distancing, Visitors and Capacity Limits

We will maintain at least three feet of physical distancing indoors whenever possible.

In addition to maintaining a physical distance of at least three feet, schools will layer multiple prevention strategies including:

- Frequent handwashing and/or sanitizing
- Increased ventilation
- CDC recommended cleaning and disinfecting protocols
- We are limiting the use of school district facilities to district or school-sponsored extracurricular activities and groups until further notice.

COVID-19 Vaccinations and Protocols

Although not currently required, vaccination is strongly recommended for all those who are eligible.

- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and contact their health care provider, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals who develop COVID-19 symptoms at school or work will be sent home.
- The Westchester County Department of Health has provided protocols for addressing COVID-19 instances in the school community, including close contacts, symptomatic



individuals and quarantine. The district will continue to partner with the county on these decisions.

Social-Emotional Well-Being

We will continue to identify students' social-emotional needs and provide appropriate services to students and families.

- The district will continue to integrate social-emotional strategies into our elementary school curriculum.
- We will focus on mental health awareness and trauma-informed care for both students and staff.
- We will continue our mental health collaboration with community members, parents, staff and students.

Athletics, Extracurricular Activities and Clubs

Sports and extracurricular activities at grade levels will resume this fall.

- In alignment with NYSPHSAA, athletics will continue with layered prevention strategies including masking indoors and on the sidelines and COVID-19 testing of athletes if necessary.
- Check [here](#) for updates on the Athletics page of the district's website.
- Student extracurricular clubs and activities will follow the same protocols as used during the school day.



Masking

Universal masking is required indoors and on school buses regardless of vaccination status.

- Mask breaks will be incorporated into school schedules.
- Students who cannot medically tolerate a mask should contact their school's principal.
- Masking requirements will remain in effect until otherwise indicated.
- When outdoors, masks are strongly recommended, but not required.



HAVE A QUESTION? JUST ASK by clicking [HERE](#)

Instructional Technology

Students should bring their Chromebooks with them to and from school each day.

- A district-issued Chromebook will be provided for all students in grades K-12.
- Families can access low-cost internet service [here](#).
- Access support at the district's Technology Resources page [here](#).



Meals

Meals are free throughout the 2021-22 school year for all students, regardless of household income.

- To the extent possible, students will eat in the cafeteria.
- Students may be asked to eat in classrooms or other large school spaces, including outdoors, weather permitting, to maximize social distancing.

