

Continued information from PS Co-Directors

We are creatively and flexibly redesigning space throughout the building and considering how outdoor space may be used so as to allow for the best and safest educational experience for students. At the beginning of the year, Pre-K and K will each be split into four cohorts for health and safety and to help these young children have the most opportunities for socially distanced movement within their classrooms. Based on CDC guidelines, cohorts may decrease opportunities for exposure to or transmission of COVID-19. Each cohort will be taught by a different teacher in a different space. Pre-K cohorts will be taught in existing Pre-K classrooms and in current kindergarten classrooms, which will be redesigned to be developmentally appropriate for Pre-K students. Mr. Odell, Ms. Marden, Mrs. Giarrusso, and Mrs. Conley will each teach one cohort of Pre-K, each in a separate space. (For more information about grade level teaching assignments, please see the attached letter linked at the beginning of this document.) The four cohorts of kindergarten classes will be taught in the cafeteria/auditorium and gym, which will be turned into developmentally appropriate classrooms with child-friendly materials from kindergarten that will allow students to move, play, and learn. A divider wall is being constructed in the gym to turn it into two classroom spaces. Mr. Pyke, Mrs. DeTrollo, Mr. Langbein, and Ms. Sarfati/Mrs. Crane (her maternity leave) will each teach one cohort of K, each in a separate space.

First-third grade classes will also be split into cohorts who will attend school on alternating days. Students in first-third grade, along with students at MS and US, will be assigned to M (Montclair) and K (Kimberley) cohorts for the hybrid model of school. As we assign students to cohorts at the Primary School, we are taking great care to consider a variety of factors, including academic balance and needs of all learners, social-emotional dynamics and friendships, diversity and inclusion, and keeping siblings together within and across campuses. Class lists and student cohorts will be shared with families in August, and a welcome letter to students from teachers will follow later in the summer.

Please help your child to begin to wear a mask gradually and increase the amount of time they keep it on as school approaches. Building their stamina for mask-wearing now helps to ensure their success and everyone's health and safety. Please also teach children about physical distancing and help them to anticipate that at school, they will be keeping their distance from friends to keep each other healthy. When introducing mask wearing and physical distancing, children tend to respond well when it's done through play and their parents and teachers lead by example.

We appreciate your support and look forward to the fall.

Best,
Margaret Gonzales and Maureen Bates
Co-Directors, Primary School