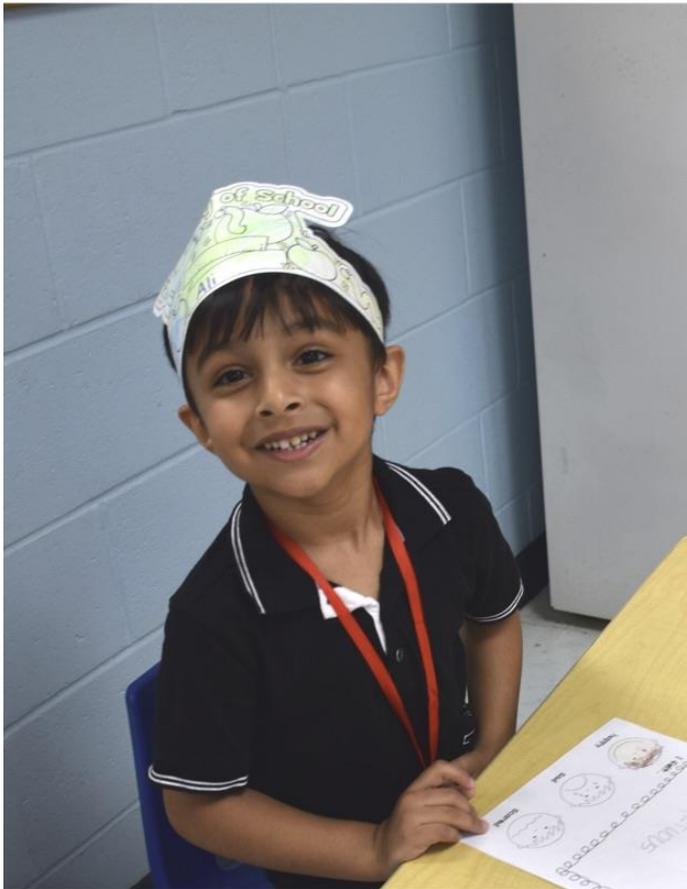


July 2020



# Herricks Public Schools

## *Districtwide Reopening Plan*



*Recovering*  
*Rebuilding*  
*Renewing*

## INTRODUCTION

In mid-March 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo ordered all schools in New York State to be closed to in-person learning because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This unprecedented Executive Order was extended through the end of the 2020 school year as part of an effort to stop the spread of disease in the state. From March 16, 2020 through the end of the school year, all schools conducted instruction to students through remote learning. In late spring of 2020, the Governor and the New York State Education Department (SED) tasked schools to develop plans for the 2020-21 school year with three possible scenarios: a continuation of remote learning, a return to in-person learning, and a blended hybrid model consisting of both remote and in-person learning. In June of 2020, a 50-member Reopening Task Force was assembled in the Herricks School District to make recommendations to the Board of Education and administration for the reopening of schools within these three possible configurations.

The Reopening Task Force examined various reopening guidance, research and data in order to develop recommendations for the reopening of our schools as safely as possible. Guidance for the Reopening Plan was derived from a variety of sources, including the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), the New York State Department of Health, and the New York State Education Department (SED). Members of the Task Force were talented and diverse individuals, which represented our constituent stakeholder groups. Members included parents, teachers, administrators and Board of Education Trustees. Union leadership, PTA, SEPTA and community groups were represented within the group, as well. The Task Force included several physicians with expertise and experience treating patients with COVID-19 and school nurses. The Task Force took responsibility for the development of plans and reopening recommendations, which have been incorporated into this very thoughtful and carefully crafted plan. This is not a static plan, but one that will change to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic. Know that we will be ready and prepared to adapt and pivot, as needed.

As we have said many times, the health and safety of all members of the Herricks school community is our highest priority. Our plan includes numerous safety protocols that have been put into place. Because of the ongoing pandemic, we will not be able to operate as we normally do, and many activities we have traditionally enjoyed will have to change. We will be implementing health measures such as daily health checks for all employees and students, social distancing and density reduction, new practices for how academic coursework is delivered, restrictions on large gatherings, the required use of face masks, enhanced cleaning protocols, establishment of a COVID-19 Response Team in each school, and other measures.

Feel free to contact any members of our administrative team if you have any questions regarding this Reopening Plan.