



# HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## **Office of the Superintendent**

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Superintendent of Schools  
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Dear Members of the Herricks School Community,

I hope that you are having a safe and relaxing summer thus far. I am writing to provide you with an update regarding school reopening plans for the fall. Governor Cuomo has announced that reopening guidance documents from the state will be available on July 13 and school reopening plans will need to be finalized by July 31. The Governor also announced that he will make a decision on reopening schools during the first week of August.

We have created a fifty member Reopening Task Force, which began meeting in June. The Task Force is comprised of a diverse and talented group of parents, teachers, administrators and Board of Education Trustees. Parent members include several physicians who have a great deal of expertise and experience in dealing with the COVID-19 virus. The Task-Force is developing recommendations in four important areas related to our reopening plans: health and safety; instruction; mental health needs; and operations, which includes transportation, food service, facilities and security. I can assure you that the Task Force is diligently and thoughtfully developing detailed reopening plans, which will address student needs in all of these critical areas. As always, Herricks is focused on the academic, social, emotional and physical needs of our students. Despite the challenges ahead, we will continue to provide an outstanding school experience for everyone. The procedures and practices in our schools will look different, but be assured that we will continue to support the growth and development of each and every child.

It is our desire to have all of our students, faculty and staff return safely to school in September. Pending Governor Cuomo's decision, we are planning for three possible scenarios: a full return to in-person learning, remote learning, or a blended model of instruction, consisting of both. We appreciate the feedback we have received from our remote learning survey. If we return to a remote learning situation, it will be characterized by more structure, greater time on task, and an increase in live face to face instruction. We have learned and grown from the experience in the spring, and will continue to develop and refine our practices in this area.

The health and safety of our students and staff remain our first priority. We are revamping our cleaning procedures and are stocking large quantities of disinfectants and cleaning supplies. We have also purchased personal protection equipment, such as masks and gloves, additional hand sanitizer stations, and clear plastic screens. We are currently cleaning and replacing filters in all of our ventilation systems throughout the district. In addition, we are in the process of hiring additional school social workers and an additional school nurse. We are well on our way in preparing for the fall and will continue to do so throughout the summer.

I will provide you with updates as our plans are refined and finalized in the weeks ahead. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Best regards,

**Fino M. Celano, Ed. D.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*