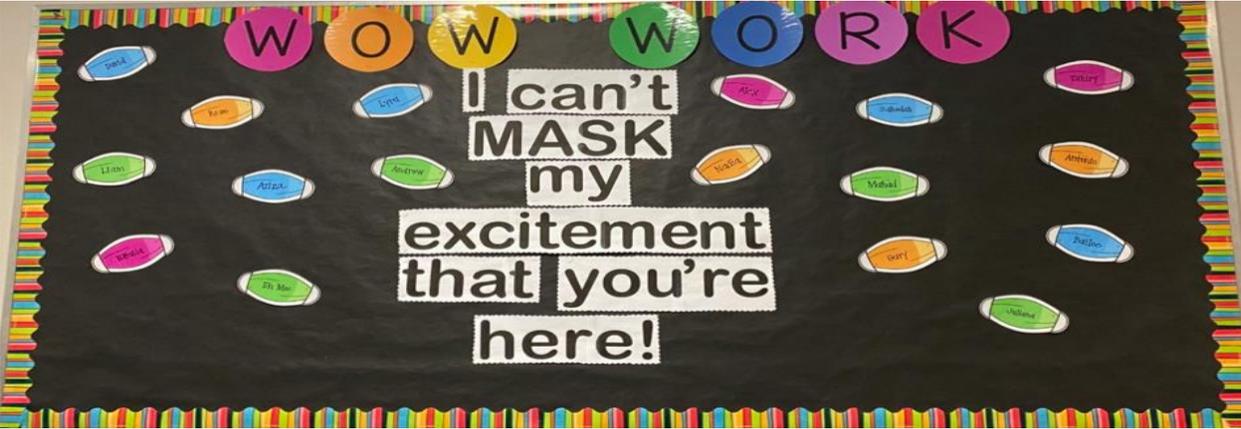


The following is the weekly communications brief on behalf of Superintendent Dr. Kriner Cash for the week ending 1-29-21.

Dear Colleagues:

This week, I inspected six school buildings prior to our February 1st reopening of in-person learning. We have been readying schools since last March, anticipating that we would be returning to physical buildings when our Health Advisory Council gave us recommendations and clearance to do so. I am confident to report that we are ready. It's time for the children to "come home" to their schools.



On Wednesday of this week, I conducted school readiness visits with COO Jim Weimer, who has overseen the acquisition and delivery of PPE and cleaning supplies, as well as the engineering staff, plant operations, and food service. Our Medical Director, Pediatrician Dr. Dennis Kuo, who heads our Health Advisory Council also joined us at Community School #53.



Principal Denisca Thompson told us that out of a total enrollment of 500, she is expecting 117 students, 29 of whom will be full time, and 85 staff to report on February 1st. Because of hybrid staggering between in-person and remote, there will be up to 60 students at any given time. The School #53 team is ready and excited for the

return of students! There will be 4 entrances for students/staff each morning with thermal scanners.



Teachers have set up their classrooms in creative ways within CDC guidelines for maximum safety and ease of daily in-school routine. Dr. Kuo checked hand sanitizer placement and other visual cues such as signage and floor stickers for proper distancing. The classroom above, will accommodate 5 on any given day. Student belongings will be properly handled and stored, and desk areas are clearly marked on the floor. Breakfast and lunch will be enjoyed in the classrooms. Pre-K will take naptime without masks.

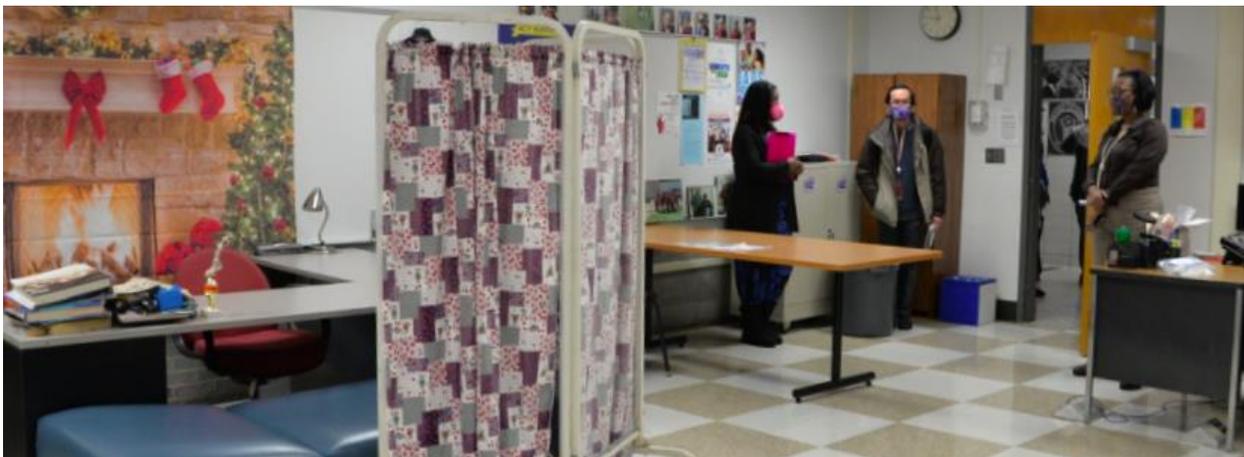


Teachers have been given adequate PPE, and all of our schools are well stocked. The school's ventilation is a forced air system with Merv 11 filters that will be checked 3 times per week, with periodic air flow testing. Nurse Wendy Walker assured Dr. Kuo that she has health histories for all of the students. The schools have all been supplied with Hazardous Materials cans with lids in every building, as well as special trash bags for discarded masks and used PPE.



Mrs. Ward teaches a class remotely

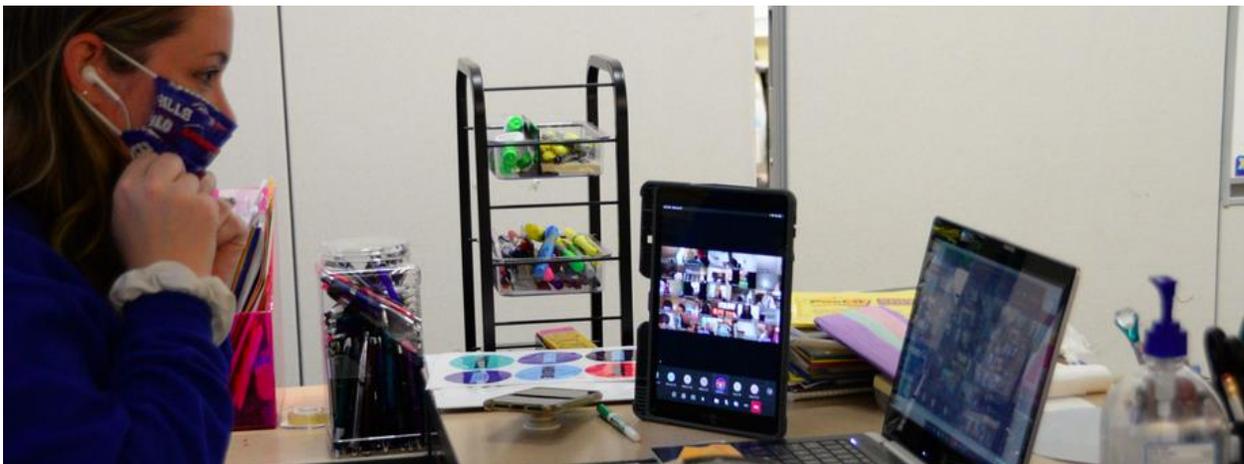
Dr. Kuo observed that spacing is good in the classrooms, and that big spaces, such as the cafeteria are not an issue because it will be used exclusively by a few teachers at a time at #53. Masks, distancing, hand washing are a must, and Dr. Kuo was pleased with the signage in content and frequency of postings on walls and doors throughout the school. The classrooms we saw in #53 and all of the schools we visited involve staggered seating for different days so that each child has a dedicated sanitized seat and desk. There will be one child, per table, on any given day. Nurse Wendy showed us the Care Room for students who test positive, and as stated earlier this week, though the State of New York has no testing requirements at this time, we will quick test students and teachers at a rate of at least 25% throughout February in order to understand incidence and prevalence within our school community. Children who test positive will remain in the Care Room until family picks them up, and the room will be cleaned immediately. School #53 is READY!



Next, we visited Hamlin Park Claude & Ouida Clapp Community School #74 Principal Patrick Cook. The floors and hallways are gleaming, all of the high touch areas are sanitized several times per day, and signage and sanitizers are ample and well placed. Mr. Cook says that all of his staff is on board with doing their very best for their children.



School #74 is expecting 150 students and 98 staff, for a total of 250 people, which is near average for all of our schools at this point. 14 of 40 rooms will be in use, and spacing is key. Hallways have ample spacing room, and stairwells are one-way only. There will be two entries for students—one for walkers, one for and bused children. Food will be served in the classrooms, and the mask mandate is the same – everyone all the time, except for Pre-K nap time. Second-grade teacher Mrs. Brennan has fashioned desks to look like little Jeeps, complete with windshields! We were also delighted to see 1st-grade teacher Mrs. DiCarlo conducting a full class remotely.



Nurse Tracy Cleveland expects to do at least 20 quick tests per week and has a Care Room ready if needed. Students will eat in their classrooms and are being asked to bring outdoor clothes for walks and play so that daily fresh air can be taken advantage of.



The school has made a video for returning students and families that will be sent out to families and watched in the classroom daily. It is highly informative and also warm and welcoming – educators are naturals when it comes to communicating knowledge in a clear and fun way, and everyone is excited for the return of their little ones!



Principal Serena Restivo at Marva J. Daniel Community School #37 is ready, and says her teachers have been setting up their classrooms in anticipation and excitement for February 1st. "We can't wait!" she says.



School #37 is expecting 100 students and 65 staff on Monday. 31 of the students will be 5 days per week, while the others will stagger a Monday/Tuesday of Thursday/Friday schedule, such as all of the other schools. At any given time, there will be a maximum of 72 students in school in this Phase 1 cohort.



14 rooms on the 1st floor will be used, with better than required spacing, and the Care Room will be the auditorium annex, which is close to an outside door in case a parent needs to pick up a COVID positive student.



Principal Restivo says that they have everything they need regarding PPE and that the engineer "Mr. JJ" has gone above and beyond, as has Director of Transportation Director Cheryl Kennedy. Here is Principal Restivo, with Assistant Principal Maureen Williams, ready and waiting!



International Preparatory School #198, under the administration of Principal Ella Dunne is excitedly awaiting the arrival of their "Presidents". High schools operate differently than elementaries when it comes to communicating expectations and protocols to their students, and with the help of experts at Cannon Design, they have classrooms charted out for optimal distancing at maximum safety. Stairways are all one-way.



IPrep is expecting 128 seniors to arrive in cohort 1 on February 1st, along with 98 staff. Unlike elementary schools, the high schools will use their cafeterias, with spacing in mind. It is agreed that teens are highly social creatures, and the right environment in the cafeteria will help them to comingle while adhering to COVID Protocols. Lunch will be the only meal served daily, and each student will grab a brown bag breakfast on their way out at the end of the day for tomorrow's breakfast.



We had the pleasure of meeting art teacher Ms. Syta, who was teaching a freshman and sophomore art class. The students paused class to say a warm hello.



We also met music teacher Eric "Critt" Crittendon, who has been using *Soundtrap.com*, an on-line, cross-platform music learning studio. As Mr. Crittendon explains it, any student, with little to no musical acumen, can synthesize any aspect of music either individually or collaboratively on-line, in real-time with *Soundtrap.com*. A portion of former graduate and Atlanta Falcon Steven Means' recent generosity will be going to the purchasing of site licenses for IPrep scholars enrolled in Mr. Crittendon's class.



Nurse Tina Tollar shared that she has had her first dose of the COVID vaccine and is scheduled for the next. The Care Room for students is orderly, well stocked with PPE, as is Principal Dunne's closet. The Care Room has an outside door for easy pick-up, should a student test positive. Students will arrive through one entrance each morning, and exit through another. Engineer Todd Beaver has made sure the school is spotless and regularly sanitized and disinfected.



I have every confidence that IPrep students will be welcomed back into a school that is practicing smart, disciplined safety. Kudos to Principal Dunne and staff for making school welcoming and for last year's amazing 18 point increase in grad rate! This is a school that is rising and meets the needs of their wonderfully diverse student body.



South Park High School's Interim Principal Mike Morris is expecting 105 returning seniors on February 1st and 45 students with special needs, along with 100 teachers. South Park District Board Member Lou Petrucci joined us for the walk-through and was thoroughly impressed by the school's reopening preparedness.



Students will be in three groups, with seniors on Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday schedules. High need students will be attending all 5 days. 250 comfortable for footprint for this large, immaculate school, maintained by engineer par excellence and SPS alum Mike Homewood.



Nurse Jodi Skinner showed us the testing room with pass through doors to avoid congestion. Testing of students and staff will occur each week through at least February.



Operationally, SPSHS is also employing one entrance and one way-stairwells and directional stickers. There will be 4 lunch periods, and long tables have been replaced with individual desks. As with IPrep, brown bag breakfasts for the next morning will be provided as students exit for the day. Notes for room capacity are posted in the hallway, and signage and sanitizer are well placed along with bottle fillers.



Mrs. Labruna, AP Science and Environmental lab teacher is expecting a few students, so she will sync in-person with remote, as will teachers across the district.



Frank A. Sedita Community School #30 will be the site of our Welcome Back press conference on Monday, February 1st. Principal Rafael Perez says 160 students and 94 teachers are expected to return under cohort 1. 24 of the students returning have

been invited back as high needs, and will attend all 5 days per week, while the others are on a Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday schedule.



COVID testing will be done in the auditorium in the morning. School #30's Care Room is near the outside door. Dismissal will take place from the auditorium. Nurse Tracy Schuta says that testing up to 6 people each day is quite possible, with a focus on older students and staff.



Teachers will eat in the large cafeteria, one per table, facing in the same direction, per protocol, and children will eat in the classrooms with staggered and distanced seating. All PPE, sanitizers, signage and placing is per guidance.



We had the distinct pleasure of joining Grade 4 teacher Mr. Hurley while he was reviewing circuits with his remote students. Mr. Hurley certainly keeps his student's attention, and I know he is ready to welcome them back in person. He is an example for all! See you all Monday, Sedita Dragons!



Central District Board Member Paulette Woods, along with At-Large Member Terrance Heard, and Associate Superintendent for School Leadership Toyia Wilson visited City Honors School today. "Overall, it was great visit," said Ms. Wilson. "Principal Kresse and his team answered many questions and helped [our board members] see that the BPS principals are ready for our open on Monday."



Enjoy a safe weekend! See you soon!

Dr. Kriner Cash
Superintendent