



East Ramapo Central School District

105 South Madison Avenue, Spring Valley, NY 10977

A Unified Community Educating the Whole Child ...

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September 9, 2020

Dear East Ramapo Central School District Families,

It is with heartfelt gratitude and expectation that we welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year. Although very different from the start of previous school years, we believe this year brings the opportunity for continued growth and innovation in learning for our students.

Along with our welcome, it is my intent with this letter to provide additional clarity around the expectations and schedule for our students with disabilities

Prioritized "In Person" Instruction for High-Needs Students

During the summer (July 2020) the State Education Department, along with the Department of Health, provided guidance around school districts' reopening plans. As part of the guidance they provided it was noted that priority should be placed on "in-person" instruction and services for high needs students and preschool students with disabilities. Additionally, input from parents was to be obtained, particularly when considering students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). In keeping with these guidelines, the District has identified the following programs to return "in-person" during Phase 1 of our roll-out, with a start date of **September 16, 2020**:

Kindergarten through Grade 8 - 8:1:2, 12:1:2, 12:1:4, 12:1:1 classes

Kindergarten through Grade 3 - 15:1 classes

High School, Grades 9 through 12 - 12:1:2 Specialized Programs

**Other populations of Special Education Students will follow the general phases*

Please note that even with our “in-person” programs, parents continue to have the option to have their child participate in instruction remotely. Simply notify either the Office of Special Student Services or your child’s building principal of your request, if you have not already done so.

Phase 1 will begin “in person” for students in the identified Special Education programs beginning on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 until Friday, October 9, 2020. During this time, students will attend “in person” Monday through Thursdays, and receive remote learning on Fridays. There will only be four Fridays in which students will be remote as a whole. We plan on utilizing this time to help students build capacity and become more acclimated with remote learning in the event that we would ever need to close schools.

Phase 2 will begin on Monday, October 13, 2020. Beginning on that date forward, students in the identified Special Education programs will be “in person” Monday through Friday.

Please note that related services (Speech, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Counseling, Vision and Hearing Services) will continue whether or not students are remote or in person.

If you have any questions about whether or not your child falls into the category of those who will begin “in person” on September 16, 2020, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 845-577-6040 or your child’s school. Additionally, a questionnaire is available on the district website, or at the following link <https://forms.gle/ifss2gDQvHqzwDwv8>

Bus passes will be sent via postal mail within the week.

Regards,

Tamar Walker
Assistant Superintendent for Special Student Services