



# **The Patrick School**

397 Columbia Avenue Hillside, NJ

## **2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR REOPENING PLAN**



## **REOPENING ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mr. Chris Chavannes - President, Director of the Academy, and  
Head Coach

Dr. Mary Jo McKinley - Principal

Mr. Steve Mango - Business Secretary

Mr. Joe Jordan - Athletic Director

Mrs. Tiffany Carty - Parent

Mrs. Noelani Dixie - Parent

Mr. Patrick Green - Teacher

Mrs. Lillian Nyaga - Teacher

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Dear TPS Families,

The last several months have been one of the most challenging times we have faced. Our community, like others, has been impacted by the pandemic in a variety of ways. But, The Patrick School community is strong and resilient. We look forward to returning to school and our traditions.

Over the past months the Reopening Advisory Council (RAC) has reviewed documents and guidance from a variety of expert sources. The NJ Department of Education released a 104 page document "The Road Back" which served as a roadmap. In addition, Governor Murphy updated these guidelines on July 24, 2020. The RAC also considered the TPS parent/guardian survey results from last spring regarding the safe return to school.

A recent survey asked each family to confirm their selection of blended learning or entirely virtual learning. Those selections will remain in effect for the entire first semester after which families may choose to change their selection.

What follows is the TPS Reopening Plan. This plan is subject to change should the directives from the Governor change. Updates, if necessary will be communicated via email and later via the TPS phone app. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at [maryjomckinley@thepatrickschool.org](mailto:maryjomckinley@thepatrickschool.org).

Be well,

Mary Jo McKinley, Ed.D.



## ACADEMIC PLAN

We will return to the 2020-2021 school year using a hybrid blended learning schedule. Students will attend class in person two days a week and will participate in virtual learning the remaining three days of the week. Parents can also opt for their student to have entirely remote instruction with no in-person days. Each student will be guided by weekly learning plans from their teachers. The learning plan provides an overview of what assignments and activities are their responsibility that week. In addition we have switched to a block schedule. In the block, students will take three academic classes each semester. The fall semester ends in January and the spring semester ends in early June. Physical education spans both semesters.

In creating the master schedule the administration has made a concerted effort to create “pods”. Grouping students in pods throughout the day minimizes the potential for exposure to the COVID-19 virus for students, teachers and staff throughout the school. Ideally students will only have physical proximity to students in the same pod. Teachers will move between classrooms teaching a limited number of pods. This scheduling strategy has the additional benefits of a) facilitating more effective contact tracing in the event of a positive case and b) allowing for targeted testing and quarantine of a cohort instead of wide-spread measures impacting the entire schools in the event of a positive case.

Pods have been created in two ways for the 2020 - 2021 school year. In the two-day-a week in person schedule students have been divided into Green and White groups. The Green group consists of students in seventh, eighth and ninth grades. The White group consists of students in tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades. In addition within the groups, students have been further grouped in pods based on the classes they are scheduled to take.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Green Group attends class in person	White Group attends class in person	Green & White Groups follow learning plan virtually	Green Group attends class in person	White Group attends class in person
White Group follows learning plan virtually	Green Group follows learning plan virtually	Only in person classes are special learning opportunities	White Group follows learning plan virtually	Green Group follows learning plan virtually



## **ATHLETICS**

Athletes have returned to campus this summer under the Phase 1 protocols of the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) for summer recess workouts. As we continue to look forward to the return of our basketball program this winter, the guidance and directives of the NJSIAA will set the guidelines. The NJSIAA delayed the start of the fall sports season however no start date had been announced for the winter season. The NJSIAA states they will continue to follow the Sports Advisory Task Force Guiding Principles as they make decisions.

The members of the Sports Advisory Task Force believe that participation in athletics enhances the educational experience of all students. The principles below serve to help guide committee members in their decision-making process.

1. Ensure the health and safety of all student-athletes.
2. Re-engage all student-athletes as soon as possible for their social, emotional and mental well-being.
3. Maximize participation across all sports and all student-athletes.
4. Keep competition as local as possible for as long as possible.
5. Develop multiple return-to-play models to minimize the risk of a cancelled season.
6. Maintain the ability to pivot to back-up plans when deemed necessary.
7. Minimize potential impact on the spring season.
8. Minimize the importance of post-season, state-wide championships.

## **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING**

The current pandemic has put our country, state and families through unforeseen trials. The commitment of TPS to the social and emotional needs of the members of our school community has never been more important. All staff will investigate further how best to provide the necessary support any student may need to feel safe and secure while reaching their highest level of personal success. The school is a safe space for students to explore and express emotions. We have also made a commitment to explore opportunities through which we can safely support others in the greater community.

More than ever, these challenging times ask us to be there for each other. Here are additional resources for parents and caregivers:

[Helping Children Cope with Changes Resulting from Covid-19](#)  
[5 Ways to Help Teens Manage Anxiety About the Coronavirus](#)  
<https://coronavirus.allmentalhealth.org>



## HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

### Health Screening and Protocols:

- All students are required to complete an electronic health screening questionnaire each day they are physically on campus.
- All individuals will have a body temperature screening prior to entering the main building. Any individual with a temperature above 100.4 Fahrenheit will be denied entry.
- All individuals are required to wear a mask while in school. Students are asked to wear a mask when arriving at school and to bring a spare mask to use in the event of accidental contamination of the first mask.
- Movement within the building will be minimized, however staff will attempt to build in structured opportunities to hold class outside and/or take “mask breaks” outside the building, weather permitting.
- TPS is required to report all positive COVID -19 cases to the Board of Health.
- Any closures will be addressed on a case by case basis, The Board of Health will advise accordingly.

## CLEANING PROCEDURES

Routine cleaning and disinfecting is integral to maintaining a safe environment for students, faculty and staff. There are sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer dispensers in each classroom as well as the weight room and gym. All touched surfaces including desks, door handles, light switches and handrails will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. Long-acting electrostatic disinfectant will be applied daily to all surfaces.

- Hall lockers and locker rooms will not be in use.
- Water fountains will not be in use. Students should bring their own water bottles
- When possible doors will remain open.
- Students should bring needed objects to eliminate the sharing of items that are difficult to clean ie. pens, pencils, etc.



## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- The school building will be at no more than 50% capacity on any given day.
- Students will arrive through the Columbia Ave door and leave through the back door toward Rutgers Ave.
- Only staff will be allowed in the main office.
- Any transactions with main office staff will take place through the transaction window.
- Only the first floor and lower floor will be in use.
- Desks will be spaced 6 ft apart as per floor markings in all classrooms and all desks will face one direction.
- Breakfast and lunches will be unitized and pre-packaged.
- Meals will be purchased electronically. No money will be exchanged in the cafe.
- Each student pod will have a specific area in the cafeteria for meals, eat in the classroom or outside.
- Meal tables will be marked for social distancing and students will sit facing the same direction.
- Bathrooms will have limited entry
- Handwashing protocols will be posted
- Use of lockers will be eliminated
- Use of locker rooms will be eliminated

## TECHNOLOGY

At this time TPS remains a “bring your own device” school. Over the summer the network was upgraded. New access points were installed throughout the building as well as other backend equipment. All improvements eliminated any previous spotty connectivity issues.

It is anticipated that prior to the start of the school year a free TPS phone app will be available. This app will serve as a go-to source for information and connectivity. Access buttons will include calendar, menus, Google classroom, GradPoint, among others.



## CDC GUIDELINES

### Staying Home When Appropriate

- Educate staff and families about when they/their child(ren) should stay home and when they can return to school.
- Actively encourage employees and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home and monitor symptoms. Develop policies to encourage sick employees and students to stay home without fear of reprisal.
- Staff and students will stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.

### Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- Staff and students should cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. \

### Cloth Face Coverings

- Face coverings should be worn by students and staff and are most essential in times when social distancing is difficult. Individuals should be reminded to not touch the face covering and to wash their hand frequently.
- Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment.

### Cleaning and Disinfection

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, sink handles) within the school at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies) should be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.

### Shared Objects

- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.



- Avoid sharing electronic devices or learning aids.

#### Ventilation

- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, for example by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms) to children using the facility.

#### Modified Layouts

- Space seating/desks at least 6 feet apart when feasible.
- Turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), or have students sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.

#### Physical Barriers and Guides

- Install physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, particularly in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart (e.g., reception desks).
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating “one way routes” in hallways).

#### Communal Spaces

- Close communal use shared spaces such as dining halls and playgrounds with shared playground equipment if possible; otherwise, stagger use and clean and disinfect between use.
- Add physical barriers, such as plastic flexible screens, between bathroom sinks especially when they cannot be at least 6 feet apart.

#### Food Service

- Have children bring their own meals as feasible, or serve individually plated meals in classrooms instead of in a communal dining hall or cafeteria, while ensuring the safety of children with food allergies
- Use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes). If disposable items are not feasible or desirable, ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher. Individuals should wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.