

Pine Hill Public Schools

The Road Forward 2021-2022



September 2021

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Superintendent's Welcome

Dear Pine Hill School District Community,

While we are excited to welcome all of our students back to school, we understand that there is some uncertainty. In spite of the ever-changing information and guidance, we have done our best to create a return to school plan that focuses on getting **all** of our students back to school for five full days of in-person instruction as safely as possible. This newsletter should provide you with the information you need to begin the school year. It is our hope that you continue to offer us your patience and grace as we navigate this year.

Dr. Melissa Williams
Superintendent

Communication is Key!



The District will strive to communicate decisions about opening and ongoing changes to the learning environments throughout the school year. This first newsletter focuses on returning to school on September 7, 2021.

The plan will be submitted to the Board of Education for approval at the September meeting and subsequently submitted to the County DOE.

The plan will be posted on the Pine Hill District website.

The plan will be fluid to respond to the ever-changing landscape such as guidance and mandates that require adjustments as the school year progresses.

Positive COVID cases will be posted daily on the website so that community members can track cases within each building. All positive cases will continue to be reported to the Camden County Department of Health.

It is essential that we have your correct contact information and that you keep it up-to-date. If anything should change, please contact your child's school immediately and provide the new information.



Masks

On August 9, 2021, Governor Murphy put into effect Executive Order 251 which requires that masks be worn by all students, staff, and visitors in every school in New Jersey. The District will comply with the mandate.

All students are required to report to school every day with a mask. There will be at least two times per day when they will be permitted to remove their masks: to eat lunch and for HS & MS physical education class. In the elementary setting, mask breaks will also be provided. During those times when students are not wearing masks, the District will utilize social distancing, additional locations and outside activities to the best of our ability as additional layers of protection for students.

The District will maintain a supply of extra masks for students. The District will also reinforce proper mask wearing through signage and/or announcements.

No student will be permitted to board a district bus/vehicle without a mask. This is required by federal mandate.

Extra masks will be available on buses for those students who forget a mask.

The District has created a protocol for mask exemptions based on medical condition.

(Forms and instructions are located on the District website. www.pinehill.k12.nj.us)

Physical Distancing

OHS & PHMS

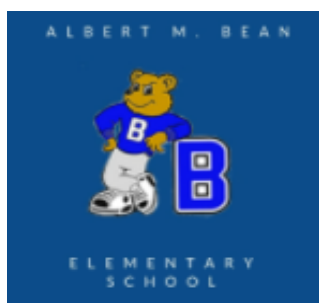
RAMS



This September will be the first time that we have the entire student body in each of our schools since March of 2020. While the District will physically distance students to the greatest extent possible, we cannot guarantee three-feet of distance.

- ◆ Seating charts will be required in classrooms, on buses, and in the cafeteria to assist in effective contact tracing.
- ◆ Outdoor spaces will be used whenever it is possible and practical. We will remove any non-essential furniture from classrooms to allow for increased space.
- ◆ Additional lunch tables and/or lunch periods have been added to allow for as much social distancing as possible.
- ◆ Student numbers in bathrooms will be limited at any given time.
- ◆ Staggered arrival and dismissal times in elementary schools will occur to reduce student gatherings.

All schools will continue to use signs in the hallways and classrooms: Reminders on regarding social distancing and healthy practices such as handwashing and proper mask wearing will be shared during morning announcements.



Daily Symptom Screening

- ◆ Parents are required to ensure that their student is feeling well prior to sending them to school. Information with the symptoms to look for will be sent to parents in September.
- ◆ Students who are not feeling well should NOT come to school. Please do temperature checks at home and report symptoms to the school nurse for monitoring.
- ◆ Students who present as ill (with COVID) symptoms during the day will be isolated and immediately referred to their personal family medical provider and will be required to present a note from the medical provider clearing them for a return to school. Students may be required to return with a negative COVID test or remain out of school until 10 days since symptoms onset and at least 24 hours have passed with no signs of fever and improvement in symptoms.
- ◆ Students and staff who test positive for COVID will be excluded from participating in any part of the educational program and all extra-curricular activities.
- ◆ CDC guidelines will be followed for contact tracing, exclusion, and quarantine protocols.
- ◆ School nurses will maintain contact with the Camden County Department of Health (DOH) with all updates of COVID cases within the district.



Hand Hygiene

Education around hand hygiene will be provided through announcements and in signage around the buildings.

Steps for Proper Hand Washing

- ◆ Wet hands with clean water
- ◆ Soap/Scrub hands long enough to sing “ABC” twice
 - ◆ Rinse under running water
 - ◆ Dry with hand dryer or clean towel

Hand sanitizer will be available in every office/classroom/bathroom and will be maintained by our custodial team.

Contact Tracing

- ◆ Collaboration with NJ Department of Health (DOH) and Camden County DOH for any disease and symptom monitoring for the school community will be in place at the direction of local DOH.
- ◆ Assistance with contact tracing for identified cases in school populations will occur in collaboration with the local Health Department.
- ◆ Teachers and bus drivers must provide nurses with up to date seating charts.
- ◆ Auxiliary staff are required to document any student meetings to be shared with the school nurse where social distancing was not possible or that lasted greater than 15 minutes.
- ◆ District nurses will monitor local, national, and global health trends. They will follow communications from the NJDOH, CDC, Office of the Governor, and Camden County Health Department regarding specific communicable disease concerns, planning, and interventions.

Cleaning & Maintaining Healthy Facilities

- ◆ All classrooms, buses, and other areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily meeting CDC guidelines and using cleaning products that are EPA approved.
- ◆ Sanitizing wipes will be available in every classroom.
- ◆ To the extent possible, students and staff should limit the sharing of school supplies.
- ◆ Water fountains will continue to be turned off, however water bottle filling stations will be available. Students must bring their own water bottles to fill throughout the day.
- ◆ The District Facility Manager will maintain a schedule and protocol for all cleaning. The district will continue to use a 90 day mist that protects all surfaces from germs and viruses. The first misting will occur prior to school starting on September 7, 2021. Outside air will be recirculated as much as possible based upon the capacity of the HVAC units.

Transportation

- ◆ The District will continue transporting students; bus passes were mailed out.
- ◆ If you have questions regarding transportation, please contact our transportation coordinator at transportation@pinehillschools.org or 856-767-8000 ext. 3150.
- ◆ With the entire student body returning to school this fall, buses will be filled. There is no extra space on buses.
- ◆ Windows will be open, buses will be cleaned and sanitized every day, and seating charts will be used.
- ◆ Students **must** wear masks on the bus; extra masks will be available if a student forgets to bring one. No student will be permitted to board a Pine Hill bus/vehicle without a mask (this is required by Federal mandate).
- ◆ After-school bus runs will continue: High School - 3:00pm, Middle School - 3:45pm, Elementary Schools- 4:15pm.
- ◆ Districts across South Jersey are experiencing a shortage of bus drivers. Please be patient as we continue to fill and monitor our routes, reaching out to transportation with any issues. If any community member is interested in driving for the district, please reach out to the transportation department.

Instructional & Academic Planning

The District recognizes the diverse learning needs of our students, especially as we continue to move away from remote learning. Learning needs will continue to be identified through the use of benchmark testing and various skills assessment programs such as IXL, STAR, and ELA /Math program assessments. Data will be analyzed on an ongoing basis in order to identify individual needs of the students and provide appropriate instructional support.

The 2021 Summer programs focused on meeting the needs of our students academically and to re-engage our students in learning.

Other learning environment notes: Middle and high school students will be using locker rooms to change for physical education classes. Band and Choir will occur. Lockers will be available to students in middle and high school hallways.

Vaccination Information

While the District believes it is the right of every parent to choose what is best for their child with regard to the COVID vaccine, we do support the CDC in its efforts to make vaccines readily available and accessible.

In addition to the clinics held in the spring and over the summer, the district will host a vaccination clinic through Walmart at the Overbrook High School in the gym on September 22 from noon-4pm.

Local Sites—[Camden County Pop Up Sites](#)
CAMCare Healthcare, Clementon 856-583-2400
Berlin Pharmacy, Berlin 856-336-2855
ACME Markets Pharmacy, Sicklerville 856-728-2189
Walgreens, Sicklerville 856-566-2602
Walgreens, Lindenwold 856-566-0099
CVS, Clementon 856-435-2212

COVID—19 Testing Sites

When you suspect you or a family member may have contracted COVID, the following testing sites are available:

Camden County College Testing Sites:
<https://www.camdencounty.com/service/covid-19-updates-and-preparations/testing-site-locations/>

Test Finder
<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing#test-sites>

Additional Testing Sites
AtlantiCare Urgent Care, Clementon 856-719-8600
AFC Urgent Care, Clementon 856-566-3333
Patient First, Sicklerville 856-237-1016
CVS, Clementon 856-435-2212
Walgreens, Sicklerville 856-566-2602

Plans for Unexpected Closing of School

Should the state mandate the closing of all schools or the climate requires the district to limit the number of students in school, the district will revert to a full or hybrid remote learning option. *More information to come on those options.*

Social & Emotional Learning

All schools have developed plans that focus on the social emotional aspect of learning for our students. The plans include practices embedded in the culture and instructional practices of the school day to ensure that student needs are being identified and met. The District includes practices and programs for our students according to the 5 SEL competency areas: Self Awareness, Self-Management, Responsible Decision-Making, Relationship Skills, and Social Awareness. It is our hope to continue to create and maintain safe places for learning for all of our students. Principals will be sharing more information about various programs in each building .

Cafeteria—Food Services

The District will continue to partner with Nutri-Serve, returning to full capacity for the 2021-2022 school year, providing breakfast and lunch.

The USDA Nationwide Waiver to Provide Flexibility for School Meal Programs will continue to allow all students to receive a lunch at **no charge** for the 2021-2022 school year. ***It is urgent that you continue to fill out the Free & Reduced lunch forms (if Applicable).***

If schools must shut down at any point, meal pickups will continue as they did in the prior school year.

Who to Contact?

Pine Hill School District
pinehill.k12.nj.us 856-783-6900

Mr. Adam Lee,
Overbrook High School Principal
alee@pinehillschools.org 856-767-8000

Ms. Kate Klemick,
Pine Hill Middle School Principal
kklemick@pinehillschools.org 856-210-0200

Mr. Dan Schuster,
Dr. Albert Bean Elementary School Principal
dschuster@pinehillschools.org 856-783-5300

Mr. James Vacca,
John Glenn Elementary School Principal
jvacca@pinehillschools.org 856-783-4100