



Kenilworth Public Schools  
Office of the Superintendent

Summer Update #2: Focus on Wellness

July 9, 2020

Dear School Community:

We know just how important health precautions will be to parents this fall – because that’s what you told us.

Nearly half the parents who responded to our **Preparing for Fall 2020 Community Survey** said their willingness to send children to school depends on what health and safety measures are in place. [We’re sharing the findings of our survey here.](#)

While we all face an evolving situation, we’re taking extensive steps to prepare for a safe, reassuring reopening of schools. The work of reopening our schools with the health and safety of our school community members as the top priority is in response to Covid-19, but it also aligns to one of our previously established district goals:

<b>GOAL #4</b>	<b>STRAND: Health &amp; Wellness</b>
	We will be accountable for operating a safe, efficient, and effective school district.

**Preventive Measures**

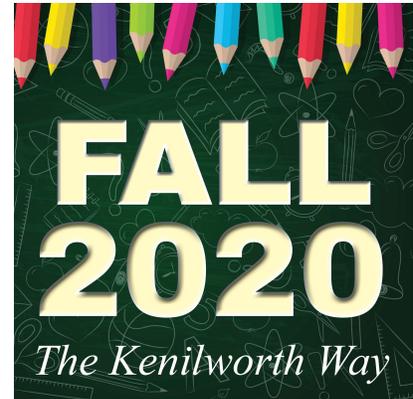
We have formed nine committees to address various aspects of our fall reopening plan. The Health & Wellness Committee will vet previously proposed and new ideas. Two scheduling committees, for the Harding and Brearley school communities, will weigh various models for the school day. The committees’ evaluations will be non-binding, but will be highly valuable in shaping our strategies.

There was an overwhelming response for committee participation. We worked to make varied and well-balanced committees made up of board members, administrators, teachers, parents, town officials, and - where appropriate - students. If you were selected to participate, the chairperson of your committee will reach out to you soon if s/he hasn't already. Unfortunately, not all interested individuals are able to participate. However, you can reach out to any of the committees with questions and ideas at [Fall2020@kenilworthschools.com](mailto:Fall2020@kenilworthschools.com).

We're also following reopening guidance from state and national experts, including the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the [NJ Department of Education](#) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

Are you curious what classrooms will look like this fall?

We're working on some possibilities, including holding some classes in larger rooms, such as gyms and lunchrooms, with dividers. In smaller classrooms, we're considering clearing out nonessential equipment and furniture to support social distancing.



### **Help Kids Prepare**

Parents became even more involved partners in their children's education over the past three months of the school year. Your role will be just as important as students get ready to return to a different school experience in the fall in some of the following ways.

- Children feel more at ease when they know what to expect. You can share with them that although we don't have all the answers on what the new school year will look like, we do know that, per the NJDOE mandate, teachers are required to wear face coverings.
- Students will be strongly encouraged to wear face coverings; they are required to do so when social distancing cannot be maintained, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health.
- You can help by finding ways to [make face coverings more comfortable](#) and gradually increasing the amount of time your child wears a mask to build endurance.
- We'll share more information about facial coverings as guidance develops. We'll share more information about facial coverings as guidance develops. The Governor's new Executive Order signed yesterday is a reminder of how quickly guidance develops and how nimble and responsive we must be as a result.

Parents also need to be prepared for new contingencies. Health-related developments at either the state or local level could result in a return to an all virtual learning environment and, for some parents, a need for childcare. We ask that you start thinking about this now.

When you shop for school supplies, add hand sanitizer and a thermometer to your list. The American Academy of Pediatrics reopening guidelines note that “resources and time may necessitate” that parents do [temperature checks](#) at home instead of that step being handled in schools. We are fleshing out the details of daily pre screening measures. We’ll have more information about these protocols in the upcoming weeks.

### **Support is Available**

I am proud of our teachers, and our school counselors and Child Study Team members, for providing Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and interventions to students this spring. Under the leadership of our Director of Student Personnel Services Dawn Cuccolo, our faculty and staff members ensured continuity for students who need the most support.

SEL needs will factor into our planning for the fall. Parents who need support for their children over the summer should email Ms. Cuccolo at [Dawn\\_Cuccolo@kenilworthschools.com](mailto:Dawn_Cuccolo@kenilworthschools.com).

If a child is in crisis, please consult these [emergency resources](#).



### **In Closing**

I thank the 500-plus people who participated in our [Preparing for Fall 2020 Community Survey](#). Your input will help us plan for a safe and successful school year. Look for more surveys, as well as regular updates like this one, throughout the summer as our reopening strategy continues to take shape.

Stay healthy & well.

Sincerely,

**Kyle C. Arlington**

Superintendent of Schools