

July 21, 2020

Dear Aerospace Elementary School Families,

I am pleased to be in contact with you early in the summer in preparation for return to school on August 26<sup>th</sup>. As I am sure you know, Governor Lamont and the Connecticut State Department of Education have provided public schools with a 2020-2021 reopening plan for students pre k-12<sup>th</sup> grade entitled **Adapt, Advance, Achieve**. The American Association of Pediatrics recently advocated strongly that “all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school”. We agree! We want our students back! We miss all of you!

Some of the focus points listed in the SDE document are as follows:

1. To make health and safety the number one focus.
2. To return all students full time to school, while monitoring all stakeholders, when necessary, to contain COVID-19 spread.
3. To stress equity, access and support to our students and families as we begin back from this unprecedented pandemic.
4. To engage in strong two-way communication with our students and families.
5. To make all decisions for reopening according to the needs of our students (physical, safety, emotional well-being and mental health needs)

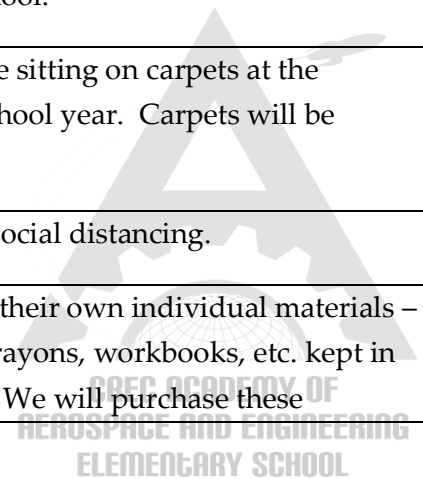
Our superintendent, Mr. Timothy Sullivan, has outlined how CREC will support students’ return to school. What will that look like at Aerospace Elementary School, specifically? Please see below.

<u><b>Masks</b></u>	<p>All stakeholders will wear masks throughout the school day. Students must wear a mask to ride the school bus. Staff and students must be masked to enter the school.</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">There will be times throughout the day when students take “mask breaks”</p>
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	<p>We are asking you, the families, to practice wearing masks with your children and sending them to school with their own masks when school begins.</p>
<p><u>Cohort Groups</u></p>	<p>Students will remain with their own class throughout the school day.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Breakfast/Lunch</u></b> will be eaten in classrooms in grades PK – 1 and in the cafeteria in small, grade specific lunch waves for grades 2 – 5.</li> <li>2. <b><u>Specials teachers</u></b> will teach in the students’ cohort classrooms. Students will receive one essentials class per week every day– Monday-Friday (Art this week, every day – next week Music, every day)</li> <li>3. <b><u>Recess</u></b> will be with students’ cohort of classmates.</li> <li>4. <b><u>Bathrooms</u></b> –       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Pre-k classes have in-room bathrooms</li> <li>b. Upper grades will have specifically assigned bathrooms with cleaning schedules adhered to throughout the day.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Stairwells will be specifically indicated for walking down and walking up.</p> <p>(All students traveling the same direction)</p> <p>Social distancing indicator dots will be placed on hallway floors and on classroom floors.</p> <p>Arrows indicating directional flow of walking will</p>

<p><b><u>In school Travel</u></b></p>	<p>be place on hallway floors.</p>
<p><b><u>Recess</u></b></p>	<p>Recess will be held at least once per day to offer students a “mask break”. Students must remain in cohorts and groups will be spaced out around the property.</p>
<p><b><u>Entering and Exiting School</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PICK/DROP OFF</u></b></p> <p>If you wish to get out of your vehicle during arrival or dismissal you turn right and follow the driveway. Bear right and pull in to the parking lot and park on the side of the building. The entrance for drop off/pick up will be at Entrance #3A.  <b>Parents will not be able to enter the building during drop off or pick up times. . Staff will greet students at the door and will escort them to their classrooms as long as we have COVID-19 procedures in place.</b></p> <p><b>Pre-K – Grade 1 students will enter</b> students will enter at the indicated doorway nearest to their classrooms.</p> <p><b><u>Grades 2 -5</u></b> will enter school through identified doors and then walk through specifically identified corridors and stairs to classrooms with staff monitoring them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>VALET</u></b></p> <p>Students will wait in their classrooms and will be called to valet.</p> <p><b>Families can utilize the valet line for pick up and</b></p>

	<p>drop off. Follow the signs and pull up all the way to the stop sign. Cars will be loaded and unloaded there. Do not allow children to get out of the car until staff has indicated that it is safe to do so.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>BUSES</u></b></p> <p>At dismissal, students will be called by their bus number over the loudspeaker. They will line up, socially distanced, and seated on the buses according to their drop off/pick up schedule on the route. Students will be seated according to the bus route – first picked up/last dropped off – sit in the back.</p> <p>Students must wear masks when entering and riding on the bus.</p>
<b><u>Before and After Care</u></b>	This service will take place this year and more information will be forthcoming.
<b><u>Water fountains</u></b>	Water fountains will be closed and covered. There are bottle filling stations available at the same location. All students are encouraged to bring water bottles to school.
<b><u>Floor coverings</u></b>	Students will not be sitting on carpets at the beginning of the school year. Carpets will be removed.
<b><u>Social distancing</u></b>	We will adhere to social distancing.
<b><u>Student Materials</u></b>	Students will have their own individual materials – pencils, markers, crayons, workbooks, etc. kept in ziploc plastic bags. We will purchase these



	materials for students.
<u>Parent Meetings</u>	Parent meetings, including PPT's, 504's etc. will be conducted remotely.
<u>School Cleaning</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Custodians have been trained in and follow bathroom protocols for cleaning and disinfecting and sanitizing our school in compliance with the Department of Public Health and CDC</li> <li>2. Bathrooms will be cleaned throughout the day according to a set schedule.</li> <li>3. Paper towels and soap will be readily available.</li> <li>4. A plan for "no touch" doors, garbage cans and paper towel dispensers will be in place.</li> </ol>

Our back to school process is evolving, but I want you to know what is being put in place, now, for your children's return to school in August. We are looking forward to opening our brand new facility and we cannot wait to welcome children into this sparkling new building!

We know, as you do, that children benefit from school and need to be in school with their friends and teachers. This pandemic has been a health crisis, an economic crisis and a crisis for our students' educational process. We are working hard for a safe return.

More communication will follow. Until then, enjoy your summers and please stay safe.

Kind Regards,

Gayle Hills, Principal

