

August 11, 2020



Dear Cleveland Hill Community,

As expected, on Friday, August 7th, Governor Cuomo announced that schools could reopen this fall. As part of our District Reopening Plan (available on the District website), we outlined three different instructional models for reopening schools:

1. **In Person / Full Student Attendance** – this would have all students in school at the same time, with health/safety protocols implemented as recommended by NYSDOH.
2. **Hybrid** – There are a lot of variations of this model. However, in general, the daily district attendance would see about 50% of students, with enhanced health and safety protocols as recommended by NYSDOH. In the Cleveland Hill proposed Hybrid model, students will attend school 2 days a week, with remote learning the other 3 days. This model blends the best options of the Full Attendance Model and the Full Distance Learning Model. In this model, those who are in need of technology would be provided this equipment by the district.
3. **Distance Learning** – In this model, all classes (and learning) takes place virtually. This was the model that was followed from mid-March 2020 to mid-June 2020. Again, those who are in need of technology would be provided this equipment by the district. This model may be the best with respect to the health/safety of students and staff.

With the understanding that circumstances may change in the coming weeks, we are anticipating opening school as scheduled on September 8, 2020 **in the Hybrid Model**. If circumstances dictate a change in our instructional model to either distance learning or in person instruction, we will notify you with as much time to prepare as possible. To more efficiently and effectively utilize our staffing and resources, our hybrid model has evolved over recent weeks, and will be structured as outlined below.

- 1) All students are placed into 1 of 2 attendance groups: BLUE or GOLD.
- 2) All children living in the same house were placed in the SAME attendance group (so they can attend together)
- 3) Attendance Days:
 - a. Blue Attendance Group- Will attend EVERY Monday and EVERY Thursday
 - b. Gold Attendance Group- Will attend EVERY Tuesday and EVERY Friday
 - c. Some special needs students (Students with Disabilities in special classes and English Language Learners) will attend EVERY Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
 - d. All students will be taught remotely EVERY Wednesday

This model was selected for the following reasons:

- 1 – This model was selected as it aligns with the majority of Erie 1 BOCES component districts for alignment with vocational programming, special education and virtual learning services.
- 2 - This model allows us to address the individual needs of all students including those who may need a full distance learning model. Additionally, this model provides the best structure for our teachers to provide substantive instruction and engagement, both in person and remotely.

3 - Using this model allows for our Food Service Department to meet the State requirement to assure our students have food available every day.

We have had questions regarding a parental option of a full distance learning model for students with underlying health conditions, or for families that are fearful of sending their children back to school. We will accommodate all parent requests for these accommodations to the fullest extent possible. All core courses will be made available. However, some elective classes and programs may not be practicable in a distance learning model. A questionnaire for parents to complete regarding the instructional model their student(s) will participate in is forthcoming.

Individualized letters containing your child's attendance group (Blue or Gold), along with a color-coded attendance calendar and a demographics update form will be mailed home this week. The color coded attendance calendar will also be available on our website at www.clevehill.org/cycleday later this week.

As a reminder, this calendar and the attendance group will ONLY be used in the Hybrid model.

There will be much more information to be shared, from the District and building levels, in the coming weeks. Information will be shared via the District website, emails, automated phone calls and letters mailed home. We thank you for your patience during this unique and trying time.

Respectfully,

Jon MacSwan
Superintendent of Schools