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Dear Tenafly Families,

Since August 2020 when we introduced our original District Restart Plan, the Administration has continued to focus on future plans that will enhance programming for our students while ensuring their safety and the safety of and burden on our staff. Originally, our Phase 2 plans retained the Phase 1 cohorts with which we have all become so familiar, extending the day and incorporating lunch into the schedule. Since then, we have reviewed, edited, and discussed the timing and details for these plans, and as our work progressed, it became apparent that there is less interest in extending school day hours and more interest in increasing the opportunity for in-school days.

Given this insight, we focused our attention on:

- Providing more opportunity for in-school days
- Minimizing the movement of students between programs (i.e., switching between fully virtual and onsite program options)
- Requiring more and longer time commitment from full-virtual participants.

Now, after months of planning and feedback, we are excited to announce our official plan for Phase 2. The proposed plan, which is the culmination of surveys, meetings, and discussions with our staff, families, peers, and neighbors, will be presented at the Tenafly Board of Education (TBOE) Meeting this Monday, March 8th for their approval. The plan incorporates both qualitative and quantitative review and interests of the TBOE.

The proposed plan ensures that all health and safety measures currently in place remain in place, including temperature checks, symptom tracker queries, mask wearing, social distancing, hallway direction designations, and the use of physical barriers such as plexiglass where the 6ft distance between students is not achievable.

In addition, contact tracing practices of local, county, and state health officials remain in place and are not expected to change. To date, our district has identified only a few individuals during this process, enabling us to successfully manage quarantines and requiring few instances of quarantining a classroom, grade, or school. While Phase 2 continues to mitigate the risk within a safe, effective environment, it is important to note that classroom organization does increase the risk of quarantine for students should they be in a classroom where the 6ft distance is not achievable.

In closing, I extend sincere commendations to all those who serve your children. Those who I have the honor and privilege of calling colleagues – our Tenafly administrators, faculty, and staff - are responsible for the success of our district throughout the pandemic. Thank you for joining me in expressing gratitude to each and every one of them.

Highlights of the proposed plan are attached. Please take a moment to review the plan prior to the March 8th TBOE meeting. I am confident that together with your support this plan is achievable and sustainable by the educators of Team Tenafly. Thank you.

Yours in Education,

Shauna C. DeMarco

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Superintendent, Tenafly Public Schools

TPS District Restart Plan Phase 2

March - June 2021

Original Phase 2 vs. Revised Phase 2

In the original District Restart Plan developed in August 2020, Phase 2 retained the current cohorts in a full day schedule including lunch. However, after conducting multiple meetings at various school and district levels, it was apparent that moving to the original Phase 2 plan would not satisfy the desire to have more students onsite daily for instruction, building routine and consistency, or meet the desired instruction modes of students/families. Less interest exists in extending the school day than in extending opportunities for in-school learning. For this reason, Phase 2 will eliminate the hybrid program thereby combining the current cohorts.

Phase 2 Implementation Process

Groups of students will be phased in via grade-level waves. This staggered wave-entry process will help to establish routine and readiness for groups of students in ways that are mindful of current safety protocols.

Wave 1: March 15 - Grades 2, 3, 8, 11, and 12

Wave 2: March 22 – Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10

Elementary Program Offerings

- Full Onsite Program: students grades K-5 will attend school daily, 8:30am – 1:30pm; Paws students will attend school daily, 9:00am – 1:30pm; AM Cubs students will attend school daily, 8:50am-11:30am, and PM CUBS will attend school daily, 12:20pm-3:00pm.
- Full Virtual Program: students in grades K-5 will stream into their class daily, 8:30am – 1:30pm; Paws students will stream into their class daily, 9:00-1:30pm; AM Cubs students will stream into their class daily, 8:50am-11:30am, and PM CUBS will steam into their class daily, 12:20pm-3:00pm. After-school support of Full Virtual students by full-virtual instructors will continue.
- Beginning March 29th, all K-5 and Paws students will receive virtual instruction/activities from 2:30 – 3:10pm, Tuesday – Friday.

- In Grades K and 1, whole class activities will be conducted by the classroom teacher, the teacher of a special (e.g., Art, Music, Library/Media, PE, World Language) and/or another faculty member.
- In Grades 2-5, at least two of the four afternoon classes will be whole group. These whole group activities may be led by the classroom teacher, the teacher of a special, or another faculty member.
 - Small group instruction (i.e., reading groups) may take place on the remaining afternoons.
 - Students not in the assigned small groups for that day will receive an asynchronous assignment to be completed during the afternoon session.

Teachers will post the student/group schedule in advance of each week so that parents can plan accordingly.

TMS Program Offerings

- Full Onsite Program students in grades 6-8 will attend school daily, 8:25am – 1:15pm.
- Full Virtual Program students in grades 6-8 will stream into their classes daily, 8:25am – 1:15pm.
- Beginning March 29th, the WIN period will be modified to 40 minutes.

THS Program Offerings

- Full Onsite Program students in grades 9-12 will attend school on A-D days, 8:05am – 1:04pm.
- Fully Virtual Program students in grades 9-12 will stream into their classes on A-D days, 8:05am – 1:04pm.
- All students will attend school virtually on E days, 8:30am – 12:30pm.

Program Selection

Parents will select and commit to the Full Onsite or Full Virtual program via a form provided by their school. The form will be due back to the school with the selected program type by March 11, 2021.

After the March 11th commitment date, there will be one additional opportunity to move from Full Virtual to Full Onsite. To move to the Onsite program, parents of Fully Virtual students must submit an email request to the building principal on/before April 16th. These students can move to the Onsite program effective May 3rd, 2021. Any student enrolled in the Full Onsite program

may request to move to the Full Virtual program at any time. However, they will not be considered for re-entry into the Full Onsite program.

Attendance Requirements for the Full Onsite Program

Students enrolled in this program will attend school onsite each school day. Students not present in school will be marked absent EXCEPT in the following circumstances, each of which must be documented and submitted to the school via the daily symptom tracker:

- Diagnosed with COVID
- Experiencing COVID symptoms
- In COVID-related quarantine (travel, potential exposure, etc.).

When any one of the above circumstances DOES APPLY, all students (K-12) will be permitted to participate virtually in school.

When any one of the above circumstances DOES NOT APPLY:

- Full Onsite students in gr. K-8 MAY NOT participate virtually in school
- Full Onsite students in gr. 9-12 MAY participate virtually in class, if desired, knowing the absence still applies.

Zoom Rooms

It is possible that not all onsite students can be safely accommodated in a given classroom. When this occurs, students will be selected on a rotating basis to participate in the class virtually while remaining onsite, streaming into the class from an established “Zoom Room” or other virtual learning space.

Health and Safety

All health and safety measures currently in place will remain in place, including temperature checks, symptom tracker completion, mask-wearing, social distancing, hallway direction designation, and the use of physical barriers in any location where 6ft of distance between students cannot be achieved. In classrooms where desks are less than 6ft apart, students will remain forward facing and every other desk will have a barrier. In any classroom using tables, physical barriers will be placed between forward facing students.

Contact Tracing and Quarantines

The contact tracing practices of the local, county, and state health officials have not changed and are not expected to change.

In the event of a positive COVID case within our school community, we will continue to identify any individual(s) in a contact tracing investigation as required. This includes the identification of any individual who may have been within 6ft of the affected individual for a cumulative period of 15 minutes or more during the period of potential infectivity.

While Phase 2 continues to mitigate the risk within a very safe environment, the organization of classrooms with students in closer proximity does increase the risk of quarantine for students should contact tracing be conducted in a classroom whereby a 6ft distance between desks is not achievable.

Phase 2 Monitoring

Monitoring of Phase 2 will continue throughout the school year. Further change, if any, will be limited to the possible addition of lunch for our K-1 students and the addition of select afterschool in-person activities.

Fall 2021

The district remains fully committed to being prepared to welcome all students back to our regular, full-day programming on the first day of school in September 2021, provided no state regulations prevent us from doing so. Any adjustments that must be made to ensure healthy and safe environments for all activities, including lunch at all levels, will be satisfied.