



February 10, 2021

Dear BCSD Community,

As you know, the COVID-19 landscape seems to continually shift in a “New York minute.” As the school year has progressed, we have made adjustments to our schedules, brought back more specific cohorts of students, and continually evaluated our systems and protocols. With that said, our systems are working, limiting the exposure and transmission of the virus in our schools. We are now at a crossroads, with vaccinations of staff members taking place, the availability of surveillance Covid-19 tests, and changing guidance from the NYSDOH. As a result, we are now exploring the possibility of bringing more students back to school five days per week. As we have approached all of our planning and programming decisions from the earliest days of this pandemic, we will continue to consider all options in a safe, thoughtful, inclusive and deliberative manner. We would not be where we are today without our dedicated staff, our supportive parents, and the extraordinary efforts of our students. In order to begin this process, we plan to engage in the following steps:

- **Community Survey** - In the coming days, we will solicit feedback from parents to determine if you would be interested in sending your child to school five days per week or prefer fully remote instruction. This survey is intended to gather initial input from parents. We will ask for a binding commitment at a later point in this process once we have completed our research and can give you more information about the actual teaching models for the remainder of the year.
- **Re-entry Exploratory Process** - I have convened and charged a district team to determine what would be required to accommodate more students in our schools, while remaining adherent to the NYS Department of Health guidelines. Recommendations with a proposed plan will be shared with the Board of Education and the community by mid-March.
- **Implication for Full In-Person Instruction** - We will explore staffing, space, scheduling, PPE, and transportation needs as these relate to bringing back more students to full in-person instruction.
- **Surveillance Testing** - We are in the process of arranging for surveillance testing in our schools. Testing would be voluntary. We have previously asked for parent consent to participate. Once we are able to secure tests from the WCDOH, we plan to test a number of students and staff on a weekly basis.
- **Vaccinations** - We support the vaccination of all faculty and staff who are eligible to be vaccinated. Many of our staff members have already received their first dose. We expect that by the end of March a good portion of our staff will be fully vaccinated. Some staff, however, are still in the queue waiting for appointments.
- **Health & Safety Guidelines** - Mask wearing, social distancing, disinfecting, and proper hygiene will continue to be enforced. Quarantine guidelines will still remain in effect, even with vaccinations.

It is with this sense of guarded optimism, that we are ready to embark on the next re-entry exploratory process to bring back more students to in-person instruction for the remainder of the school year.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Joel Adelberg  
Superintendent of Schools