



# The Superintendent's Spotlight

Sheila S.-Gorski-DISTRICT 32 –June, 2020



Welcome to our Fourth Virtual CEC Meeting and taking the time from your very busy schedules to join us this evening! Tonight I would like to spend some time briefing you on how we are working on plans for re-opening school buildings in the 2020-21 school year, and exploring various options based on available guidance from public health experts. There are numerous factors the NYCDOE is considering when making the decision about re-opening school buildings. For example:

We are working with guidance from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Healthy) in order to protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. In addition to the risks posed by COVID-19 directly, we are acutely conscious of the emergence of the ailment, Multi-Symptom Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) a condition related to COVID-19 that has affected children in New York City as well as across the country and the world. We will be prepared to follow guidance issued by relevant authorities as we approach the fall. While we continue to explore options based on available guidance from public health experts we seek to complement this guidance with the perspectives of families and students to ensure we move forward with our community's interests and concerns in mind. Attached to this Spotlight you will find a letter from our Chancellor sent to all of our families on June 12 asking you to partake in the survey and the reason for the survey. You support your children at home with remote learning and we would like to hear your ideas and thoughts about the benefits and the challenges you are experiencing. We need your voice and that of our students to inform what 2020-21 may look like.



**\*THEME: Anxiety & Fear**

Below you will find self-reflection prompts, additional to support Restorative Practices.

Anxiety and fear are a normal part of life, but chronic anxiety and fear brought on by traumatic events can have an impact on behavior. Here are some common behavioral *signs of anxiety and fear*. How will you recognize them and how will you respond when you witness this or feel it yourself?

<b>Emotional Effects</b> Anger Depression or sadness Hypersensitivity Emotional numbing Loss of pleasure from activities Irritability	<b>Spiritual Effects</b> Alienation Increased conflict Crying easily Aggression Social withdrawal Risk taking
<b>Cognitive Effects</b> Worry Nightmares Impaired concentration Impaired Decision-Making Decreased self-esteem Decreased self-efficacy	<b>Physical Effects</b> Sleep disturbance Startle response Gastrointestinal problems Headaches Insomnia Decreased appetite

Anxiety happens in your mind as well as your body. Below a list of 10 things you can do to quickly help you manage.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Wiggle your toes.                | 6. Listen to music.                        |
| 2. Focus on your breathing.         | 7. Sing.                                   |
| 3. Do jumping jacks.                | 8. Go for a walk or run.                   |
| 4. Squeeze a pillow.                | 9. Touch your elbow to your opposite knee. |
| 5. Rub a piece of Velcro or velvet. | 10. Drink cold water.                      |

\*The Division of School Climate and Wellness is committed to supporting you with Social-Emotional Learning resources and Restorative Practices as you engage in remote learning.

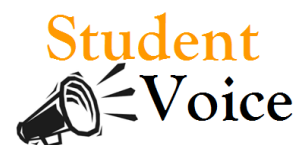
### OPERATIONS-Family Survey

The Return to School Survey opened on Friday, June 12. All students in grades 6–12, and parents/guardians of students in grades 3–K through 12, are encouraged to participate in this anonymous online survey through June 22. The survey is available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Click the links below:

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5647165/Return-to-School-Survey-Families>

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5647290/Return-to-School-Survey-for-Students>

Any family member or student who does not have the equipment to complete the survey online can call 311 and an operator will help them complete the survey via phone.





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## Remote Learning

We continue to strengthen our remote learning environments through the implementation of effective practices and the use of a variety of technical tools. These tools support learning styles thereby providing students with multiple opportunities to gain understanding of the lesson. For example,

- **Peardeck**- Is a sidebar the teacher is able to use to design slides and engage students in the presentation where students are immediately in the conversations affording teachers the opportunity to see who is confused and who is prepared to be challenged. Teachers are able to quickly create assessments and interactive questions to deepen the learning and teaching
- **Edpuzzle**- is a (asynchronous or prerecorded) Platform used to engage students in self-paced learning with an interactive video lesson. The teacher is able to add personalization by adding his/her voice narration and questions, assign it to the class, watch what they are learning and hold them accountable (supports all students especially visual learners and students who receive special education services).
- **Jamboard**- Is a whiteboard app teachers use to model lessons, like math problems, or steps to a problem. Both the teacher and the students are able to use sticky notes, also known as post-its to write responses or their thinking. The teacher is able to show the frame bar to add frames that can be duplicated to share multiple ideas with students brainstorm and bring other content areas into the lesson. They can use pens, styluses or brushes to write on the board, down load materials, and import images. It is great for collaboration between teacher and students, or student groups.

**Benefits**-The use of these tools to support lessons assist in accelerating the learning and minimizing the loss of learning. In addition, it helps create routines and visual support for learners who prefer or need to participate and engage quietly in writing (It is effective for all students and especially effective for students who receive special education services, or are multilingual learners)

## Summer School 2020- REMINDER

- For elementary and middle school students who are required or recommended to attend summer school, the program will start one week earlier and will run from Monday, July 6 – Tuesday, August 11. There is no change to the duration or structure of the program.
- For high school students who are attending summer school, courses will also start one week earlier and will run from Monday, July 6 – Friday, August 14. There is no change to the duration or structure of this program either.
- For students with 12-month Individualized Education Plan (IEPs) services, there will be no change to the calendar. Our teachers start on Wednesday, July 1 and students are expected to participate from Thursday, July 2–Thursday, August 13.



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## Family and Community

### Social Emotional Learning

1. Please see [here](#) for some resources about SEL, Hope Science, and Kids at Hope's Strategic Cultural Framework.

## Early Childhood

2. Please visit the Children's Museum of Manhattan [website](#) for suggested daily activities.

### Important Dates

3C-Community & Communication Collaborative

**3C CONSORTIUM**  
Monday, June 22, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m

Friday, June 26-Last Day of School for All Students

Friday, July 3-Independence Day Holiday



*Stay Healthy and Safe!*

### **\*We are here for you!**

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June 12, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope you are staying safe and healthy. We are heading towards the end of the school year, soon to close the chapter on an experience none of us could have imagined.

But while we are thinking about concluding one chapter, we are focused on the beginning of another: what the future of our schools will look like, and how we will come back in September for the 2020-21 school year. I am writing today with an important update and an opportunity to lend your voice to the planning for this fall.

You, your children, and all the staff at DOE have done an extraordinary job adjusting to a total transformation of education in the nation's largest public school system. We must continue to center health and safety and be prepared to follow guidance issued by health experts and other important authorities as autumn approaches. Since we don't know what the state of the coronavirus will be at that time, we must be ready for a number of options for teaching and learning. In addition to the risks posed by COVID-19 directly, we are acutely aware of the emergence of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), a condition related to COVID-19 that has affected children in New York City as well as across the country and the world.-

### **What Might Fall 2020 Look Like?**

We have not yet made any firm decisions for what this fall will look like as we start the 2020-2021 school year. However, we believe that all options will need to take into account social distancing. We know that for many students, nothing can quite match full-time teaching and learning in a school building. Given the ongoing health risks related to COVID-19, we also need to prepare for a variety of educational models and approaches, including what I call blended learning. Blended learning means combining in-person and remote instruction to create a powerful educational experience where each mode of learning supports the other. Throughout it all, the goal remains to provide as much in-person learning as possible, and give every child the academic support they need while keeping them safe.

### **Lend Your Voice Through the Return to School 2020 Survey**

There are many ways blended learning can operate, and we know every student and family has experienced remote learning differently. We want to hear from you about your preferences and concerns as we head into the 2020-2021 school year. We have created a short survey for both families and students—please take a moment to fill it out and share your thoughts by Monday, June 22. The survey is anonymous and should take about 7 minutes to complete. It's available in 9 languages at [schools.nyc.gov/returntoschool2020](https://schools.nyc.gov/returntoschool2020), and those without the ability to complete it online can do so by calling 311. Thank you in advance for taking the time to again give us your feedback: it will help us to better serve you.

Working together, we will build a strong, just, safe, and successful future for our schools and our City.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Carranza  
Chancellor  
New York City Department of Education

