



# The Superintendent's Spotlight

Sheila S.-Gorski-DISTRICT 32-October, 2020



Welcome to our eighth Virtual CEC Meeting and for taking the time from your very busy schedules to join us this evening!

## October-All Grade Bands are Back to School!

During the month of October, our District team and BCO Leads have been conducting classroom visits. All through their visits they have observed Community Building lessons implemented by teachers who students who were fully engaged. Students are happily readapting to their school building and classroom learning environments. They positively cooperate in wearing their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and following all protocols for washing hands frequently and physical distancing. Our Executive Superintendent visited a second grade class recently and was so excited when she heard a second grade student enthusiastically say, "Finally, Homework!" The student was eager about being assigned homework, which gives students opportunities to work on what has been learned independently. When you see and hear from the voices of our youngsters you will find their ways for collaboration, cooperation, leadership behaviors outside of the ways we are familiar, the joy for homework assignments and the taking of immediate responsibility for all that is asked of them. It is extremely inspirational!

In spite of these unusual and challenging times, our students continue to be resilient and joyful. Despite difficulties or setbacks they have experienced over a long period of time, they accommodate. During my long career as an educator, school leader, and district leader, I have had endless opportunities to observe students, their character, their skills, academics and social behaviors. My experiences have taught me a great deal about how strong, talented and highly intellectual our students are at all stages of development. As we journey together through the most unparalleled time in our lives we should take time to observe the students, learn from them, respect them, appreciate them, as they model the behaviors, character, and personalities we as adults often wish to have. Here is a picture of what I learned. Our students may differ in opinion with their peers but they quickly come to an agreement; they may not want to share their things, but they compromise; they may vary in the way they solve a problem, but accept the ways their peers solve a problem, and even say things like, "Oh wow! That's cool, I didn't think of that!" Tonight, I want to celebrate all our creative, skilled, metacognitive, higher-order thinking students, who are also your children. I believe they teach us continuously to believe in them, to trust in them, to not give up on them and to understand that they are the makers and designers of a greater world. For those reasons we at District 32, continue to reaffirm our belief, that all children are capable of SUCCESS, no EXCEPTIONS!





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## Building Safety and Health

- DOE has ensured to make the maximum number of sinks available for hand washing
- DOE has increased cleaning throughout the school day, with special attention to high-touch areas
- DOE has made improvements to HVAC systems, as well as air conditioning repairs, to improve air circulation, as well as replacing regular air filters with higher efficiency types

## Cleaning//Disinfection & Random Testing

Schools are implementing enhanced cleaning and disinfection of surfaces to ensure the health and safety of staff and students. Throughout the school year, the NYCDOE will continue the rigorous practices used to ensure safe buildings:

- Provide ample cleaning and disinfection supplies or plan to purchase those supplies
- Require deep cleanings to be completed every night including the use of electrostatic sprayers
- Improve HVAC systems to ensure appropriate ventilation
- Set-up enhanced cleaning in classrooms, bathrooms, and for high touch areas for example, doorknobs and shared equipment, such as laptops
- Providing teachers with cleaning supplies for classrooms

### School-based Testing

The testing initiative is organized by our partners at NYC Health + Hospitals, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the NYC Test & Trace Corps.

We encourage families of all students partaking in in-person learning to provide consent to school based testing. It's safe, free, and easy for everyone. If students take part in the testing we will have the ability to monitor COVID-19 transmission in our school communities. This testing is essential to supporting our school community in keeping a safe and healthy school and ensuring the school building will stay open and in-person learning can continue. Our schools will test a randomly selected group of staff and students from grades 1-12. The number of people to be tested will depend on the size of the school. You and your child always have the right to refuse testing. Families who do not provide consent may be required to participate in remote-only learning. Once a month, one of the providers will visit your child's school with a randomly selected list of students and staff to be tested that day. The testing provider will set up in a designated area in the school. Staff from the school or the testing team will visit the appropriate classroom to retrieve students from that class who have been selected to be tested that day. Those students will be escorted to the testing area, tested quickly, and then escorted back to their classroom. Test results are confidential. If your child is tested, we will let you know they were tested and when and how you will receive the results, which will typically be provided within 48-72 hours. (<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-year-20-21/return-to-school-2020/health-and-safety>)



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## What is Teacher Teaming in the Blended Teaching model?

Teaming is an approach model in which a grade, cohort, or large group of students are taught by a team of teachers. Paired with shared inclusive, digital curricula across grade-levels and course subjects, teaming may provide teachers with the flexibility needed to share teaching responsibilities for a group of students. Teacher teams can provide instruction to both blended and fully remote students. All members of the Teaching Team in the blended model are responsible for using the Instructional Coordination time to co-plan and coordinate delivery of instruction grounded in the school's shared inclusive, digital curricula. Also, this team will have the discretion to determine how to share teaching responsibilities, including but not limited to: assessment, grading, office hours, and parent engagement. Teacher teams should use their school's curricula to plan for instruction and may choose to use materials provided by a Virtual Content Specialist (VCS), as available and appropriate. Teacher teams are generally comprised of: (1) Blended Learning On-site Teachers (these teachers provide on-site instruction consistent with the school model); and (2) Blended Learning Remote Teachers (these teachers are working remotely and provide synchronous instruction to all students in the team caseload not on site that day for remote students and/or blended learning students).

## Virtual Content Specialist (VCS)

The role of a Virtual Content Specialist (VCS) has been created to generate such resources. The VCS is a certified educator who develops instructional content that both on-site and remote teachers may choose to use to complement their school's shared, inclusive and digital curriculum. The VCS will:

- Create instructional content aligned to the course's scope and sequence, and relevant learning standards that can be uploaded to a school's chosen learning platform. Instructional content will include:
  - video recorded mini-lessons, supplemental assignments and materials differentiated for a variety of learners
  - sample rubrics and grading criteria
  - Curate instructional content to make it available to teachers
  - Participate in and facilitate routine professional learning
  - Collaborate with other Virtual Content Specialists Where applicable,
  - Collaborate with on-site and remote instructors during the instructional coordination period



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## FAMILY INFORMATION, RESOURCES & LINKS

Please continue to visit the Info hub; click on the link below to obtain more information.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families>

Here are some areas of consideration that will help you and our schools to ensure that we have successful, healthy and safe openings:

1. If you are interested in obtaining your Microsoft certification, please see [here](#).
2. Please visit the free and low cost internet options page on the DOE [website](#).
3. Please see [here](#) for the flyer for the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office Virtual Hispanic Heritage Celebration.
4. Brooklyn Frontiers High School is currently accepting transfer students to start in September 2020. Students can begin their applications online at [www.brooklynfrontiers.org](http://www.brooklynfrontiers.org) or can call us at 917-979-3303 or email [graduate@brooklynfrontiers.org](mailto:graduate@brooklynfrontiers.org) to discuss eligibility and schedule an intake interview. The first step of the process is submission of the most recent permanent record.

Remote Open Houses every Monday and Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:00pm

Join via Zoom using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/BFHS2020>

5. Brooklyn High School of the Arts is pleased to share their upcoming enrollment information. Please visit our website at <http://www.brooklynartshs.nyc/> for more information, including audition requirements.

Below is the schedule for open house, information sessions, and auditions.

### Fall 2020 Audition Information

Auditions for all NYC schools will be digital. Students will submit video or digital work through the DOE for all schools. Additionally, we will be asking for a short writing sample answering the prompt, "Why Brooklyn High School of the Arts is the right school for you?"

Open Houses: Wednesday, October 21st and Wednesday, October 28th (6 PM)

[meet.google.com/yfr-ewdf-vgm](https://meet.google.com/yfr-ewdf-vgm)

If you have additional questions after attending a recruitment event, please contact [admissiuons@brooklynartshs.nyc](mailto:admissiuons@brooklynartshs.nyc).

6. Fire Prevention Week kicks off on October 4, and the FDNY is hosting fire safety events throughout the week in all five boroughs! Please see this [flyer](#) for locations.



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## Updates on Our Schools

The NYCDOE and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) are collaborating to launch Learning Bridges and - a new program that will provide free child care options for children from 3-K through 8th grade from 8am-3pm on days when they are scheduled for remote learning. There are over 200 Learning Bridge sites around the City and each site will be matched with at least one school to recruit students. We are excited to inform you that the following schools have been selected and have been paired with the below Learning Bridges sites:

Principal Magaly Moncayo and PS 106 Located at P.S. 106 13-28 Putnam Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221 (718) 574-0261 CBO: The Coalition for Hispanic Family Services

- Learning Lab Site: Hope Gardens Cornerstone located at 422 Central Ave, Brooklyn, NY, 11221
- To enroll in Learning Bridges, families should fill out the application available here: [www.schools.nyc.gov/learningbridges](http://www.schools.nyc.gov/learningbridges). The flyer is accessible in multiple languages [HERE](#).

Principal Janice Bruce and IS 291 Located at 231 Palmetto St Brooklyn, NY 11221 and CBO: RiseBoro Community Partnership Inc.

- Lab Site: RiseBoro Youth Center
- COMPASS Learning Lab: Located at 1474 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11237, Brooklyn, NY, 11237

Principal, IA Natalie Perez-Hernandez and PS 376 Located at 194 Harman St. Brooklyn, NY 11237 and CBO: RiseBoro Community Partnership Inc.

- Learning Lab Site: RiseBoro Youth Center
- Learning Lab 1474 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11237, Brooklyn, NY, 11237 COMPASS Learning Labs

Principal Dominic Zagami and PS 377 located at 200 Woodbine Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221 and CBO: Coalition for Hispanic Family Services

- Learning Lab Site: Hope Gardens Cornerstone



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➤ Learning Lab: 422 Central Ave, Brooklyn, NY, 11221



- ✓ **Tuesday, November 3- Election Day-Schools Closed**
- ✓ **Wednesday, November 4-Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences for Elementary Schools and K-8 Schools**
- ✓ **Thursday, November 5-Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences for Elementary schools and K-8 Schools**
- ✓ **Wednesday, November 11-Veterans Day, Schools Closed**

## Technology Devices & Support

- If your child needs a Technical Device use the link here below:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home/technical-tools-and-support/ipad-requests>

- If you need Technical Support please use the link here below:

[https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home/technical-tool support/technical- support-for-families](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home/technical-tool-support/technical-support-for-families)

*Stay Healthy and Safe*

**\*We are here for you! A Community of ONE!**

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