



2020-2021 School Year (Coronavirus Update #11)

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Hello Students, Parents, and Faculty of the 2020-2021 school year,

Today marked the final day of Camp Montmartre: Virtual Edition! I hope everyone had a good time interacting with their peers, solidified some academic skills, and built strong community ties. Report cards for summer camp will be emailed on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

In six weeks, we will begin the 2020-2021 school year. It is our hope that we may do so in the new building at 925 E. 37th Street. However, safety is the top priority so we must have a virtual plan as well.

BJP will have a Reopening Plan and a BJP@Home virtual learning plan. **The entire school will operate under one of these plans depending on the science that exists to keep us safe. There is no hybrid model like the public schools.**

Calendar

The calendar has been updated on BJP's website to reflect dates and events as if it were a normal year. We must start planning for events so that we don't miss out on possible reservations etc. However, many events, such as the Saturday Program, will likely be cancelled until it is safe to hold them again. At the start of each month, we will update the calendar online, taking down what will not be held. Please always check the calendar.

BJP@Home Virtual Learning

The linked packet above outlines the virtual learning experience that will take place to continue your child's education if we can not be in the building. Please review it carefully. While the packet is formatted similarly to the one used in the spring, there are major differences, such as live classes from 9:30am-12:15pm, attendance, number grades, and uniforms. Pages 1-3 are where the new information is presented, especially the first column on page 1 and schedules on page 3, but please review it all and ask questions if needed in [this public forum link](#). If operating under the BJP@Home, the calendar online will display a green banner next to the appropriate date.

Reopening Guidelines

BJP is working to meet all requirements for reopening according to the governor's guidelines. Schools can only reopen if their region is in Phase 4 and has a 14 day average infection rate below 5% and such rate does not spike to above 9% on a 7 day average. While infection rates in the City have dropped, we must remain vigilant all year in order to reopen safely.

If your student is currently out of state, please make arrangements for them to return at least two weeks before September 9th so that they can fulfill necessary self-quarantine mandates. People will not be allowed in the building without first fulfilling such requirements.

BJP's reopening plans that will be submitted to the state will address all the mandatory requirements of the governor's 145 page document and will be available for public comment Tuesday evening through Thursday afternoon. Click [here](#) to view the plan as it is drafted from 7/28-7/30 (locked until then) and click [here](#) to leave questions/comments at any time. You will not get an individual response, but we will see them so that we can include your thoughts and concerns as we make the final drafts. Links are also available on [BJP's Covid page](#).

The main parts of the reopening plan include:

- Maintaining social distance at all times and wearing masks. There is appropriate square footage for approximately 18-20 student desks in one room. However, the average BJP class size next year is 14 students, so there is more than the necessary 6 feet of distance. All desks will face the same way.
 - Students will keep masks on. Please purchase enough cloth masks to always wear a clean one.
 - Teachers will also wear masks. They will also be provided with a face shield so that students can see their lips when teaching from the front of the room. If working with students, teachers will put their mask on as well.

- Students will stay in the same room all day with a limited amount of teachers interacting with the class.
 - Lunch will continue to be eaten in the cafeteria. The new space has room for over 600 people but only around 30 will be in it at one time, and only with people from their own class.
- Hygiene and social practices will be reinforced in all common areas with signage and adult supervision. Sanitizers and hand-washing will be readily available in all rooms.
- Daily cleaning procedures will be reviewed and documented. Common high contact areas will be cleaned after each use.
- Health checks will become a normal occurrence.
 - We are looking into an app with a simple health screening that everyone completes each morning before attending school.
 - Temperature checks and verbal health screenings will be employed.
- With the new building, there are extra classrooms available for a homeroom to move to should there be a hygiene concern. Furthermore, there will be a room dedicated for the entire year to quarantine any person who develops symptoms while at school.
 - If developing symptoms at school, the family will be provided with the nearest testing and doctors' office.
 - If students test positive for Covid, written release by a doctor to return to school will need to be made.
 - BJP will work in conjunction with NYC's contact tracing offices.
- Arrival, dismissal, and flow of students through the building, including during breaks and recess, will be altered so that students do not interact with people outside of their homeroom. This includes changes to the program, such as revised advisory periods with homerooms not multiple grades, revised sports and activities with homerooms not multiple grades, and no mandatory study hall or detention (everyone is dismissed at 4:30) until further notice. If homework or behavior become a chronic issue, parents will be asked to come in for more meetings.

That's a long list, but the reopening plans will be even longer and more detailed. We have also changed our class schedule to allow for a remediation period each week where students will work in small groups of 3-4 students (from their homeroom) on individual skills that may need remediation from time lost last spring. Furthermore, each class will, on average, have one entire period of math more this year each week. These changes were made without having to drastically change class times for other subjects, art, or music.

If you have any questions, always feel free to ask. If it is BJP@Home or Reopening specific, please input it into the [public forum link](#) so that they are all organized in one spot for me to easily see.

I pray that you have a safe August. I will be in communication with Back to School paperwork, school supply lists, and what plan we will implement (Reopen or BJP@Home) at the end of August, and will post such links on the [Covid Page](#) beforehand as well.



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