




**Noreen Mills**, Principal  
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 **Distinguished School**

September 3, 2021

Dear Families,

MS 442 has been buzzing with activity as we get ready to welcome back your child(ren). Please understand things are constantly shifting and changing as we prepare for the new school year while we maintain focus on keeping our staff and students as safe as possible. This opening of school is completely different than any other and we are discovering things might need to be done a bit differently than we previously stated to you. Please see below for a list of updates and reminders. We will send out more information next week and we plan to host a webinar on September 9 at 6 pm, details will be emailed to you on the morning of the webinar.

I hope you enjoy the last days of summer and we look forward to an incredible and productive school year.

Sincerely,  
Noreen

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#### **Official School Hours (no change)**

8:00 am – 2:20 pm

#### **Student Arrival and Breakfast**

We stated earlier students may arrive as early as 7:30 am for breakfast. This is no longer possible. Breakfast will be grab and go and arrival times for students need to be staggered to help alleviate congestion. Students will grab a breakfast, make their way to their lockers, and go straight to their first period class. Please talk with your child about showing up as close as possible to the arrival time (below) and not showing up too early.

#### **NEW Arrival and Entry Times**

Grade	Arrival Time	Entry into the Building
6	7:45 am	7:50 am
7	7:55 am	8:00 am
8	8:00am	8:05 am

#### **Daily Health Screening**

Students must present their health screening before they enter the school building. We really need your support in ensuring your child can show the completed health screening on their cellphone or gives us a paper copy of the completed health screening at the door. You can find the link to the health screener [here](#) and if you need any support, please reach out to Maria ([parentcoordinator@ms442.org](mailto:parentcoordinator@ms442.org)).

#### **Masks**

Masks must be worn at all times by the staff and students regardless of vaccination status. Please click [here](#) and look over the DOE's website about health and safety in schools.

#### **Lunch**

Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria. Tables will be assigned by class and students will not be allowed to eat with friends from other classes. Students will be distanced by 3 feet and they will not sit across from each other as they eat. Students will have time in our new and updated schoolyard to talk with friends from other classes. Even though students are outside, they must still wear their masks per the DOE. If you prefer for your child to not to eat inside the

lunch room and to keep their mask on, they may eat outside during their recess time. In the case of bad weather, some students will need to eat in their classrooms to ensure we maintain 3 feet of distance.

We also typically offer out-to-lunch for our students either one or two days a week contingent on parent permission. We are still waiting to see if students will be allowed to leave the building to go out to Prospect Park West for lunch.

### **Student Schedule and Hallway Transitions**

We want to bring back some of the typical middle school experience but we must be mindful of the challenges that brings at this time. Therefore, students will remain in the same classroom and their teachers will travel to their classroom for their core subjects. Students will only travel to classes like physical education, computer science, music, and lunch. This will allow our students to spend more than half the day in the same room and hallway traffic will be substantially reduced during transitions.

### **Student Class Switches**

We do not expect to need to move students to different classes in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. However, we are going to need to move students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We understand this can be difficult for our students and families but please understand we must ensure our classes are in compliance with all laws and what makes the best sense for our school community. We will make the necessary changes before the start of the school year. Maria will call families next week to inform you of the class changes.

### **Afterschool**

All afterschool opportunities will start in October. Our community-based organization that provides daily free afterschool programming is The Home (formerly Wediko Children Services). Their afterschool runs from 2:20 pm to 5:00 pm. MS 442 will also offer many club opportunities for our students. We will provide an update later this month about afterschool opportunities.

### **School or Class Closures**

There will always be the possibility of a class or school closure. For the families who have been with us, we are going to have The Switchboard and virtual class schedules ready to go in the event of a closure. For families new to 442, The Switchboard was located on our website that connected your child to a virtual class schedule. Your child would click the links provided on the schedule for live instruction or links to their Google Classroom assignment. We will provide more information later this month but rest assured the transition to remote learning is being planned for if it is ever needed.

### **Health and Safety DOE Website**

Please visit the DOE's [Health and Safety](#) website to learn more about COVID-19 testing, positive cases in school and other health and safety topics.