



Hackensack
Meridian
Carrier Clinic
East Mountain School

Stacey Paulis, Ed. D.
Director/Principal

Michael Haney, MA, QPA
Business Administrator

Stephen Bender, Ph.D, D.D.
Supervisor

Angela DiDolce, MSW, LCSW, ND
Supervisor

David Seidorf, M. Ed
Supervisor

January 29, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope you all have been keeping safe. We are not out of the woods yet with this pandemic, unfortunately; however, we see the beginnings of progress with communities providing relief with the COVID-19 vaccine. Here is hoping that we continue this trajectory upward.

Thank you for your patience and continued support to your children and our school. We are all moving toward the same goal, resuming a more regular learning environment for everyone. With each week and month we learn new strategies to improve and maintain safety. It is because of these advances and everyone's cooperation with social distancing and masking that we can now set a date for resuming in-person instruction.

We are proud to announce East Mountain School will open for in-person instruction on **Monday, February 8, for both the Community Day and Residential students.**

We have new and revised procedures for everyone to follows:

- All students must remain masked in school and on their bus. Masking and social distancing protocols continue to be essential to safety. Students who are not following these expectations will receive discipline and/or removal from the school building.
- We will no longer be serving lunch in the school building to offer additional protections to students, staff, and bus drivers. Students will receive their lunch at dismissal and must wait until they are home to eat it.
- Students transported to school may not eat lunches on the bus.
- We are continuing to streamline the coverage of staff; therefore, some classes may be conducted via Zoomed from one classroom to another area.
- With in-person instruction resuming, there will be adjustments we will need to make for students working remotely. Zoom classes will not be offered simultaneously during in-person instruction. Students are expected to work on Google Classroom and IXL with school staff checking in.
- Social workers will contact families to follow up on any adjustments needed for students, especially those on remote learning.

Medical Updates

- Our school nurses will evaluate all students daily.
- Families must contact the school if they suspect they may be or their child may be exposed to COVID-19.



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- Students exhibiting COVID-like symptoms, and identified in need of medical follow up, must be picked up by their parent as soon as possible. Residential students exhibiting symptoms will likewise return to the lodges immediately.
- Students are now required to test for COVID should school nurses identify symptoms.

With these procedures and precautions in place, it is essential everyone follow the health and safety guidelines. Students not following our procedures is not acceptable. Repeated non-compliance may result in alternative learning arrangement or discipline.

Parents and guardians, please speak to your children regarding the requirements for returning to in-person instruction. Should any student feel he or she cannot meet the new safety criteria, families may opt for continued remote instruction for their classes. Contact your child's social worker to discuss.

As a school, we are guided and supported by Hackensack Meridian *Health* professionals. Our consistent consultation with their experts on strategies to reduce the risk of spreading any germs has been instrumental to our re-opening. We will continue to engage them as we open to in-person instruction.

We are looking forward to seeing students in our buildings again shortly! Please contact us with any questions. Our Main Office phone is 908-281-1415. To contact me directly call 908-281-1445.

Sincerely,
Dr. Stacey Paulis
Director/Principal