



Charter School of Inquiry

December 12, 2020

Dear CSI Families:

Over the past four months, CSI has been considering a number of factors to determine when we will be able to transition to the next phase of reopening, which will be a hybrid mode (a combination of in-person and remote learning). Factors have included positive COVID-19 cases in our area; the number of people hospitalized in our region; and the New York State Department of Health directives, particularly as they pertain to conducting COVID-19 tests in schools.

We have also considered how to maximize the effectiveness of instruction with some students in the building and other students learning virtually. CSI has been considering how much independent work students will have to do in a hybrid setting, since students will be required to complete independent work in order to meet grade-level standards and meet the minimum State requirements for instructional hours.

The weekly schedule for students returning in hybrid would be two days in the building, one full day of remote learning, and two days of predominantly independent work. Students will be specifically assigned to the two days that they will be in the building, and consideration will be given to ensure that children of the same household are assigned the same two days.

At CSI we have already had staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19, and this required us to quickly pivot from teachers working in the building to teachers working from home. If we had students in the building, they would have had to quickly pivot back to remote-only instruction.

Perhaps the greatest challenge that schools face is the stringent COVID-19 testing that must be performed in school and the resources required to perform the testing. Currently, the requirements for COVID-19 testing in schools are as follows:

1. Schools in an Orange Zone must test 20% of students, faculty, and staff who are on site (participating in in-person learning) every month, with 10% tested biweekly.
2. Schools in a Red Zone must test 30% of students, faculty, and staff who are on site (participating in in-person learning) every month, with 15% tested biweekly.

In making our plans to move forward with reopening in a hybrid mode, we need to hear the preferences of our families. Please take a few minutes to complete a survey by Monday, December 21, 2020. The results of this survey are very important in helping to ensure that our reopening plan reflects the needs and preferences of our families. The survey can be found on our Facebook page and website. You can also type the link into your web browser. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMCYVZX>

Thank you in advance for your input.

Sincerely yours,

John W. Sheffield
Head of School