

July 14, 2020

Dear Kenny Community,

The ongoing uncertainty of this pandemic, and the many ways it impacts our lives, weighs on each of us - especially the most vulnerable among us. Like you, I want predictability, in a time when we simply cannot predict or control the future. While this update doesn't include everything you want or need to know right now, I hope it reiterates the Kenny School's commitment to the success of our community, amid this pandemic and beyond.

BPS offices are working to prepare the district's reopening guidance, which will be followed by the development and release of individual school plans. At this time, potential reopening models include: school-based learning (on-site), remote learning (at home), or a "hybrid" of both options. If a school-based option is offered, remote learning will be available for any student who is unable to return in-person.

School reopening plans impact all of us on many levels. We hope to ease the potential burden of a remote or hybrid learning model on families by strategically assigning students into consistent cohorts, as best we can. In doing this, we reduce the risk of infection within our community, align learning schedules and routines among related students, and can better support career and childcare needs.

Your input matters as we create our classes, schedules and academic plans. All Kenny School staff, families and partners are asked to please respond to the reopening form below by Fri, July 24, 2020 (*deadline extended*).



- Click link to complete the [English](#) Reopening Form
- Click link to complete the [Spanish](#) Reopening Form
- Click link to complete the [Vietnamese](#) Reopening Form
- Click link to complete the [Haitian Creole](#) Reopening Form

Members of our school community are welcome to view the results of our June student and parent/guardian remote learning surveys by clicking [here](#). The results from these surveys, in addition to staff surveys and student assessment data, are being used to guide our planning as we work to create a more consistent, engaging and equitable learning experience for students.

I hope to see you (virtually) at our upcoming "Kenny Community Conversation." This open discussion for parents and guardians is scheduled for **July 30th, from 2:00-2:45pm**. Come ask questions, share ideas and concerns, or to just listen. [[Click here to register](#)] Additional conversation times and dates will be shared following this meeting.

These times remind us of the importance of human connection. As a community, we cannot predict all that will happen. But, we can support each other. Together, we can help to heal the pain of trauma, work to protect our collective safety, stand against injustice, and keep our children learning. We will get through this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Principal Bryan
ebryan@bostonpublicschools.org
www.tjkenny.org

2020-2021 [PRELIMINARY] INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES:

You will be notified of any changes to this information

General Information:

- ✓ Student homerooms and daily class schedules will be determined and shared as soon as possible, based on the district's reopening guidance, parent responses to the [Kenny Reopening Form](#), transportation updates, and the outcome of ongoing collective bargaining at the district level.
- ✓ The 2020-2021 calendar can be found in the following link: bostonpublicschools.org/calendar.
- ✓ If classes are held in-person at the Kenny School, the School Uniform policy will be adjusted to provide greater flexibility to students and families. The uniform policy will include:
 - ❑ TOP: Any navy blue shirt, dress, sweater or sweatshirt without a hood.
 - ❑ BOTTOM: Any pants (skirts, shorts, jeans, khaki) without writing or logos printed on them.

Technology:

- ✓ **All students will receive New 1-1 Chromebooks from Boston Public Schools** for this upcoming school year, *unless* they already received a *new* Chromebook from the district's Spring deployment. If you received a Kenny School laptop (your Chromebook was *not* in-the-box / brand new), you will be asked to exchange that device for a new and better one, prior to the start of school. More information about this exchange will be shared in coming weeks.

Social-Emotional Support & Family Resources:

- ✓ Boston Public Schools continues to offer mental health services and other counseling via [Telehealth](#) to students. Learn more and read other tips for staying healthy at bostonpublicschools.org/selsupport.
- ✓ We are planning for an increased need for counseling and social-emotional support, in addition to prioritizing trauma-informed and anti-racist practices. Additionally, the Kenny School will offer Parent University and School-Facilitated support sessions for parents and guardians on various topics including: Supporting students with academics and technology; Creating home routines for success; Supporting students' social-emotional health; Anti-Racist actions and more. We will also continue to host Equity Roundtable and Affinity Group discussions. Specific dates and details will be provided following the release of district guidance.

Academics:

- ✓ Spring survey data revealed a need for supplies and learning materials at home. We are currently developing a plan to provide students and families with additional home resources.
- ✓ Teachers and instructional leaders are working hard to develop an academic plan that provides students with grade-appropriate learning opportunities that allow for a greater focus on science, technology and social justice, the development of critical thinking skills, opportunities for peer collaboration / group projects, and increased off-line/off-screen learning. More information regarding curriculum and instruction will be shared following the release of district guidance.

Health & Safety:

- ✓ It is critical to remember that it is not one action, but a *combination* of recommended safety practices (rigorous hygiene and handwashing, masks/face coverings, physical distancing, reduced interaction between groups) that *together* substantially reduce the risk of transmission. Regularly enforcing *all* of these important practices is more important than any one measure. Details on specific BPS safety requirements and procedures, including masks and school-based protocols, will be provided following the release of district guidance.

Grade 6 Expansion & Building Construction:

- ✓ Grade 6 Expansion continues as planned, and we are excited to welcome our first cohort of sixth graders!
- ✓ Building construction at the Kenny will take place over the course of the summer and will include newly created K0, K1, science, social studies, special education and ESL learning spaces within the building, secure storage areas, upgrades to technology, and more.
- ✓ Detailed information will be shared with sixth grade families in August.

Summer Support:

- ✓ Free breakfasts and lunches are available to Boston children under age 19 during July and August at locations throughout the city. All BPS meal sites that are currently open will remain open through the summer, and more locations have been added. View locations [here](#). Call **617-635-8873** for information.
- ✓ A wealth of resources for families related to food access, housing, unemployment, legal assistance, academic support and more are available [here](#).
- ✓ **Questions? Call the BPS Parent Hotline: 617-635-8873, Mon-Fri, from 9am-5pm. Translators available!**

Summer Learning:

- ✓ There are a lot of safe, fun things to do in and around Boston. Check out [this page](#) to find summer schools, camps, programs, activities, jobs and more.
- ✓ If you signed up for a summer program and have questions or concerns, please reach out to the following program-specific contacts. Program not listed below? Find more at: <https://bostonbeyond.org/state-of-summer/>

Program Name	Organization Name	Contact Name	Contact Email
Summer Learning Academy	Boston Scores	Ivelisse Mendoza	ivelisse@bostonscores.org
Summer Early Focus	Early Childhood Dept.	Solange Marsan	smarsan@bostonpublicschools.org
EFA Social Justice Academy	BPS	Rachel Jules	rjules@bostonpublicschools.org
BPS Parent Hotline	All Questions	Translators Available!	617-635-8873, M-F, 9am-5pm

Join The Reopening Discussion:

- ✓ Boston Public Schools (BPS) is conducting meetings with students, families, staff, district partners, and community members to gather input to help develop a plan for remote learning and the reopening of school buildings for this upcoming school year. We value your input. More meetings are being scheduled so that you can voice your concerns and recommendations. All public meetings will be recorded and shared. No Boston Public School internal meetings will be shared publicly.
- ✓ **Get involved! Contact communityengagement@bostonpublicschools.org and join the discussion!**

UPCOMING DISTRICT-WIDE PUBLIC MEETINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Thursday, July 16, 4:30-5:30 pm	English learner families - Chinese and Vietnamese speakers 在這裡註冊 Đăng ký ở đây
Thursday, July 16, 5:30-6:30 pm	English learner families - Haitian Creole Enskri isit la
Tuesday, July 21, 1:00-2:00 pm	BPS Central Office Staff: Email to attend: communityengagement@bostonpublicschools.org
Tuesday, July 21, 6:00-7:00pm	English learner families - Arabic and Somali speakers: سجل هنا Halkan iska qor
Thursday, July 23, 1:00-2:30pm	Boston Student Advisory Council and Youth Leader partner groups Email: bsac@bostonpublicschools.org to attend
Thursday, July 23, 4:30-5:30pm	English learner families - Spanish speakers Registrarse aquí
Thursday, July 23, 5:30-6:30pm	English learner families - Cape Verdean & Portuguese Speakers Formulario di registro Registre-se aqui
Saturday, July 25, 10:00-11:30am	General Public: Register here
Tuesday, July 28, 6:00-7:30 pm	General Public: Register here
Thursday, July 30, 5-6:30pm	General Public: Register here
Tuesday, August 4, 5:00-6:30pm	General Public: Register here
Thurs, August 6, 5:00-6:30pm	General Public Register here
Saturday, Aug 8, 10:00-11:30 am	General Public: Register here