



# Horizons

*An Environment for Effective Teaching & Learning Volume 4, Issue 1 - 9/11/20*

## HAUPPAUGE SCHOOLS ARE OPEN!

The 2020-2021 school year is off to an impressive start! What seemed like an impossible task months ago has now been realized. All District schools are open!

Hauppauge School District welcomed back our students, beginning on Wednesday, September 2nd, 3rd and 4th, in groupings. Students in Bretton Woods, Forest Brook and Pines elementary schools started back as follows: second and fifth grades returned to in-person learning on Wednesday; first, third and fourth grades returned to in-person on Thursday; and on Friday, Kindergarten orientation took place in-person. On the days when students were not in person, they took part in distance learning.

In the Middle School, sixth grade students had an in-person orientation on Wednesday and reported to school in-person on Thursday, while grades seven and eight took part in distance learning. On Friday, grades seven and eight attended in-person, while grade six took part in distance learning. High School students participated in virtual orientations.

Hauppauge School District released their Reopening Plan a few weeks before school started. Dr. Donald B. Murphy, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, has created a special website which is titled "Hauppauge School District Reopening Plan," and it contains a "HPS District Plan" which you can view. Also included on the website is specific information for each of the school buildings, welcome back videos from Dr. O'Hara, Superintendent of Schools and the principals of each school building. Photos of socially distant classrooms and cafeterias are included as well.

Contained in the "District Plan" are answers to many of the questions parents and students had. These sections in the plan are:

Learning Models

Parent Choice

Masks

Social Distancing

Overflow Classrooms

Schedule

Pupil Personnel Services and AIS

Orientation

Safety and Physical Plant

Transportation

Lunch

Before/ After Care

Dr. Donald Murphy spearheaded this reopening work, along with a committee of Administrators, Principals, teachers and parents. There was a Districtwide Reopening Committee, as well as additional committees for each school building, Plant (Facilities, Safety, Nutrition, Transportation), Social-Emotional Learning, Special Education and Technology.

Dr. Murphy delivered a special message on September 1st, the eve of the first day, to recognize that "the next three days are a bit unconventional and we are going to engage with students with a blend of virtual and on-site experiences. Principals have shared details of how those connections will take place."



**Forest Brook  
Elementary School**

Continued on next page ...

Dr. Murphy also said, "Teachers have worked alongside administrators and have been relentlessly planning and prepping for our students. This year is far different than any of the past years. We have seen a partnership and optimism all spring and summer with unwavering support. We have all virtually locked arms as a community, and we are ready to deliver for our students."

Dr. Murphy mentioned the Hauppauge "District Reopening Plan" and said, "We are proud of it. We are poised to execute. There are new protocols, new teaching methodologies, technologies, safety measures and building procedures." Dr. Murphy added, "These are all coordinated efforts to deliver on our promise to address all student needs: physical, mental, social emotional and academic needs, which is our crystal clear number one focus. We want to help students transition



**Bretton Woods  
Elementary School**



**The Pines  
Elementary School**

back, no matter where they are located (onsite or virtual), to our school community, to allow them to feel grounded and safe."

Dr. Murphy asked for patience and understanding, saying, "We have a new normal; a shared sacrifice. Teachers recognize that they are going to do everything in their power to meet student needs. He asked parents to provide the same partnership and support. If something goes wrong, we will work together to fix it."

In closing his message, Dr. Murphy said, "We are joined together to make sure our students have the best year possible, and I feel that together we can make that happen."

On Tuesday, September 8th, in Hauppauge, we reopened our doors to all students for full-day learning. Remote learning also

began for students who chose this option. All in-person students and staff are now greeted with temperature takers and may then proceed to their classrooms. The health and safety of students, staff and families is a top priority for our District. We want students and employees to feel comfortable and safe returning to school campuses. The reopening plan incorporates recommendations and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED). The protocols and procedures that will be in place for the 2020-2021 school year are:

Health Checks - Any student or staff member with a fever of 100 degrees or greater and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection may not come to school. The Hauppauge School District will utilize a two-step daily health screening:

Step 1: Daily Temperature Screening - All students, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors will be required to screen their body temperatures daily by using the Safe Check Temperature Sensor located at the designated building entrances. Face coverings and social distancing will be required while waiting



**Forest Brook  
Temperature Checks**





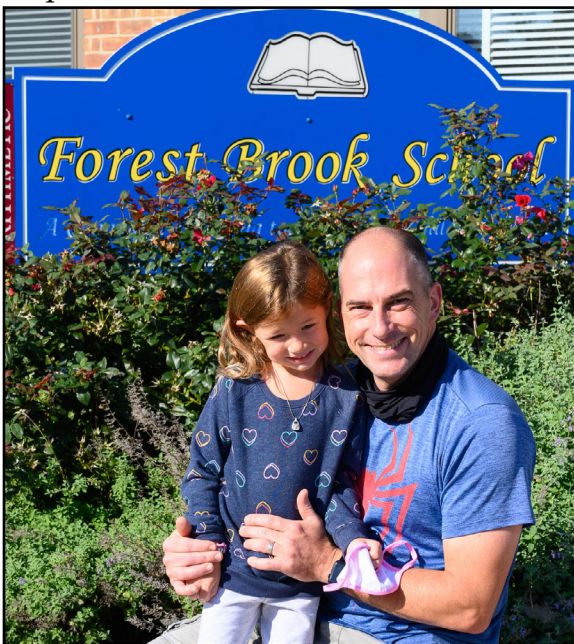


**Forest Brook  
Elementary School**

by phone and contact the Personnel office.

Per NYSDOH, schools are prohibited from keeping records of student, faculty, staff, and visitor health data (e.g., the specific temperature data of an individual), but are permitted to maintain records that confirm individuals were screened and the result of such screening (e.g., pass/fail, cleared/not cleared). School nurses will review the incoming reports of screening by staff and parents/guardians and attest that they are complete. The nurse will also be the contact for staff or students if they later experience COVID-19 symptoms.

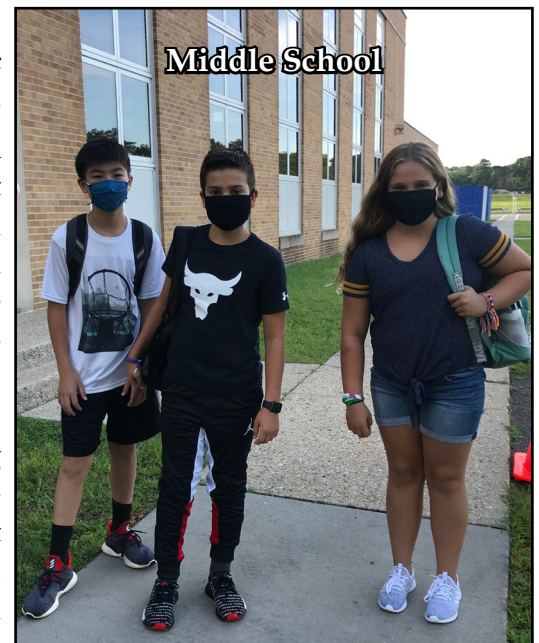
**Step 2: Screening Questionnaire** - Staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors are required to complete a daily health screening questionnaire before entering any District facility. Health questionnaires will also be required periodically for students. As part of the health questionnaire, students, parents, staff, vendors, and visitors will be asked to attest to the following statements. All responses will be confidential.



for and passing through the temperature sensor. The following entry protocols will be followed:

Each person will scan their arm using the Safe Check Temperature Sensor immediately upon arriving at the building. After reading the results, the appropriate action outlined below must be followed:

- Below limit of 100.0F - permitted to enter the building.
- Over limit of 100.0F or higher - not permitted to enter building; wait in the designated area for fifteen-minutes and rescan.
- Second reading below limit of 100.0F - permitted to enter the building.
- Second reading over limit of 100.0F - not permitted to enter building; staff members must notify supervisor



**Middle School**

- I have not knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19; I have not tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days;

- I have not experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F in the past 14 days: and/or

- I have not traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days.

The District has developed a plan with policies and procedures for maintaining social distancing of all students, faculty and staff when on school facilities, grounds and transportation. All students and adults in the school will be required to wear appropriate face coverings at all times except when masking would endanger breathing or the mental health of



an individual. Face coverings must be worn when entering or exiting a building, traveling through the hallways, riding on buses, while in restrooms, while riding in elevators, when moving around in a classroom, or any areas/situations where physical distancing is not possible. The District will have an adequate supply of face coverings on hand if any student or staff member needs a replacement.

Additional information on this subject and infection control strategies, hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting and other COVID-19 related matters is available in the HPS Reopening Plan. [Click here](#) to view the "HPS Reopening Plan" or visit our website by [clicking here](#).

On the reopening of Forest Brook Elementary School,



**Dr. Kristen Reingold**  
**Principal**  
**Forest Brook Elementary**



**Chris Cook**  
**Principal**  
**Hauppauge High School**

Principal, Dr. Kristen Reingold, said the following, "Forest Brook Elementary School was excited to welcome back all of its students this past week, whether virtually through remote learning or in-person. Our students are settling right into their routines, many of which are new, and are eager to begin a new school year with a new teacher, new friends and new experiences. It has been a smooth transition back to school, and we know the students are smiling under those masks!"

High School Principal, Chris Cook, lead the reopening of Hauppauge High School. On their first day, he said, "We feel fortunate to be in the position we are - running a program to support 100% of our students, 100% of the days we are open. Our launch has been strong. We are going slowly. However, we are getting a lot done! Our students are thriving. We are excited!"

Middle School Principal, Christine O'Connor said, "HMS is off to a great start. It is wonderful to have our students back whether on-site or through distance learning. We are adjusting

to our new normal of wearing masks and social distancing which is going well. Our teachers are working together to find new ways to further engage students through the use of technology and other research-based methods. Our students have brought positive attitudes and a commitment to learning with them. We have the ingredients for success and are committed to providing the best experience possible for all. Our Eagle Spirit is strong and we are ready for the new school year. Go Eagles!"



**Christine**  
**O'Connor**  
**Principal**

**Michael**  
**Caulin**  
**Assistant**  
**Principal**



Bretton Woods Elementary School Principal, George Gagliardi, said, "There is always a buzz of excitement when a new school year begins, but this year was especially exciting for the students and staff after being away from each other for so long! While we've had to make some adjustments, we are so happy to be back working together with both our on-site and distance learners. We are so proud of our students and the resilience they have shown and are looking forward to another successful school year!"

Pines Elementary School Principal, Dr. Claudine DiMuzio, said the following regarding the reopening of her school, "This year's school reopening at Pines will likely be one of our most memorable times as a



**George Gagliardi**  
**Principal**  
**Bretton Woods Elementary**

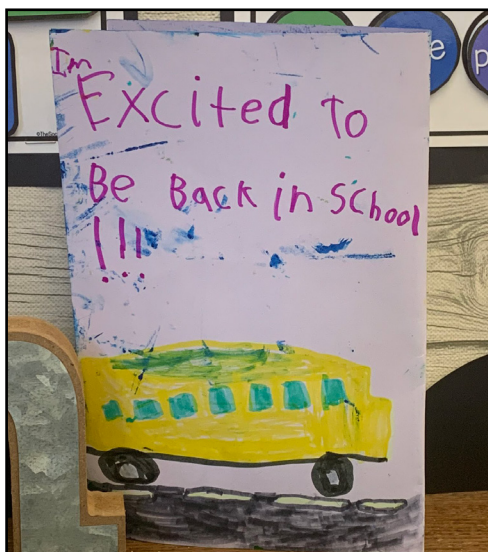


**Dr. Claudine DiMuzio**  
**Principal**  
**The Pines Elementary**

school community. For us, it has been a real thrill to see our students and their families in-person and virtually, and to reconnect as a staff in our very own school building. As a building leader, it has been very rewarding to see the results of all of our hard work come to life. After participating on various committees and collaborating with other stakeholders, I think we've done an excellent job as a district to bring all of our students and staff back to school under these challenging circumstances. #PinesProud."

The Hauppauge School District Community has something to be very proud of regarding the successful reopening of our school buildings which are a second home to our students. Following this article is a welcome back letter from our Superintendent, Dr. Dennis P. O'Hara, in which he says, "This period will go down in history as one of the most memorable and impactful in our lifetimes, and I know that our community will accept these challenges. Our resilience, generosity, determination, and care for one another will be our lasting legacy and this is a legacy of which we can all be proud."

We look forward to a wonderful school year!







## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

*DR. DENNIS P. O'HARA*

September 2020

Dear Hauppauge Community,

I am very happy to have our school year off to a great start and I am grateful to be able to communicate with you through Horizons.

It is impossible to overstate the intensity and complexity of the challenges we have faced these past few months. There were points during the spring and summer at which an in-person opening day seemed unlikely. But as a community, Hauppauge, you rose to the occasion.

As you know, we had three successful transition and orientation days on September 2nd, 3rd and 4th; September 8th was a successful first full day of instruction for all of our students - both in-person and virtually. For those attending in-person, arrival, although different and a bit congested, was smooth, safe and orderly. This has already improved, and I ask for your continued cooperation and patience as we continue to refine this process.

Although it is months in the making, our reopening plan is in full effect and working extremely well. Our primary focus is to keep everyone as safe as possible, keep everyone feeling calm and cared for, and keep us all learning. Keeping us all smiling under those masks is a top priority, as well. If we have learned anything through this pandemic, it is the value of the all-important connection between student and teacher, and the need for students and adults to be learning together. Seeing our students engaged in their learning has been a powerful reminder of the importance of our return to school and the gratitude I feel for all who made this possible.

Our reopening required a total, committed team effort in which many stepped up their efforts to a new level. I am grateful for our amazing faculty who also rose to the occasion in the spring, over the summer and in these first few days of school. We are most fortunate to have in Hauppauge bright, insightful, thoughtful, knowledgeable, dedicated, passionate and compassionate teachers who do what is necessary to not only educate, but take care of their students.

Thank you to our administrative team of directors, central office and assistant principals who worked tirelessly to get us to today's point.

Thank you to our five outstanding principals...

Dr. Dimuzio, Mr. Gagliardi, Dr. Reingold, Mrs. O'Connor and Mr. Cook have moved mountains to reconfigure spaces, schedules and people-flow patterns that enable us to enhance safety and have our students in school.

Thank you to our security, transportation, food service, custodians, buildings and grounds, and maintenance crews, support staff, clerical staff, and certainly our school nurses, who worked tirelessly over the summer to assist in innumerable ways.

Thank you to our Board of Education for countless hours of thought and for supporting the best possible education for our students.

**Continued on next page ...**



Thank you to Mr. Tasman for managing all of our myriad and challenging personnel issues and for taking the lead as our COVID-19 Coordinator. Thank you to Dr. Probst, for her attention to individual students, their specific needs, keeping their future plans on track and for the many creative ideas that have contributed to our successful reopening.

Last, but certainly not least, special thanks to Ms. Pirro for her leadership the last several weeks and to Dr. Murphy whose foresight, initiative and prodigious effort have positioned us well for a safe and successful school year.

Will in-person instruction last days, weeks, months, or the entire year? I do not have the answer to this question, and along the way, there will be other questions we may not initially have answers to, but our moral imperative remains clear - focus on the health, safety and emotional well-being of each other, connect with each other in meaningful ways, educate and nurture the children of Hauppauge, and know that every interaction, conversation and exchange we share is precious and must not be taken for granted.

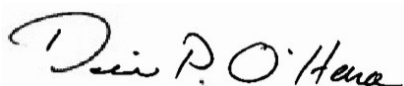
One of the heartening outcomes of COVID-19 is the outpouring of dedication, support, and compassion from our students, parents, faculty, and staff. For that alone, I am grateful to count myself as a member of the Hauppauge community.

Our goals are to keep everyone safe while completing a full year of in-person instruction, returning to clubs, performances and athletics, and to get to the point where larger groups can congregate and make use of our facilities. To begin to make these goals possible, we need the community's continued support and cooperation. Please encourage your children to remain vigilant with wearing masks, completing our daily health questionnaire, maintain social distancing, following safety protocols while in school, and also being safe and making good decisions while not at school. Our collective effort, attention to safety protocols and commitment to getting past COVID-19 give us our best opportunity to return to our normal lives.

This period will go down in history as one of the most memorable and impactful in our lifetimes, and I know that our community will accept these challenges. Our resilience, generosity, determination, and care for one another will be our lasting legacy and this is a legacy of which we can all be proud.

I, and all of our administrators, remain available to you to answer your questions and be of service. Be safe, be well and thank you, as always, for the honor to serve as your Superintendent of Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis P. O'Hara". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dennis P. O'Hara, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# First Day Photos



Forest Brook



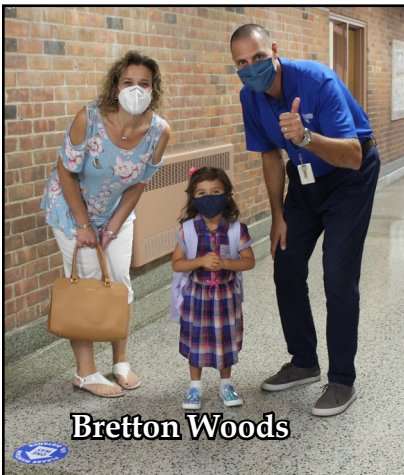
The Pines



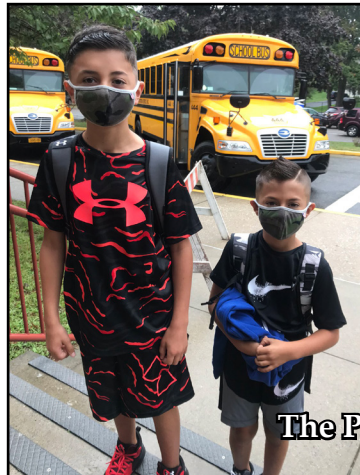
Forest Brook



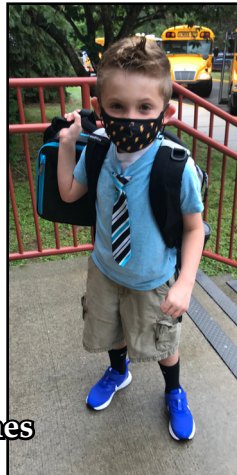
Bretton Woods



Bretton Woods



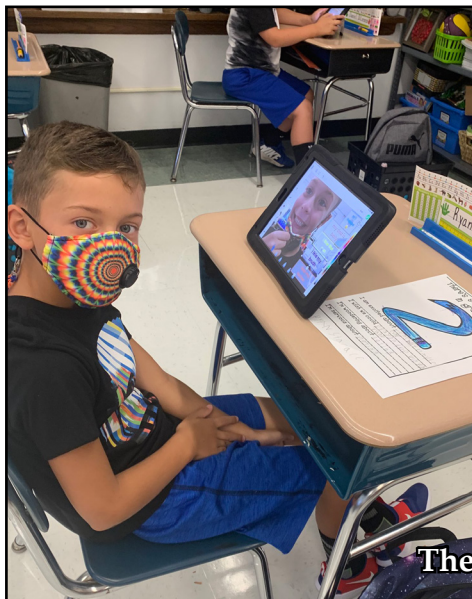
The Pines



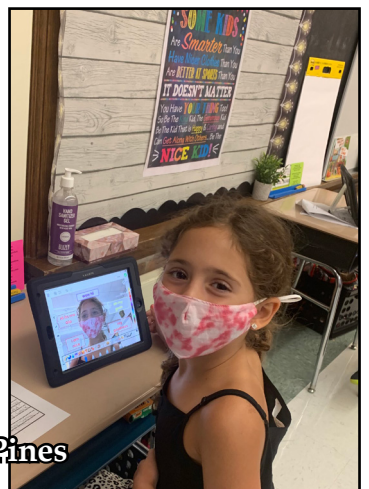
Forest Brook



Middle School



The Pines



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# First Day Photos



Bretton Woods



Middle School



Bretton Woods



Forest Brook

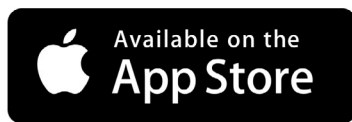


The Pines



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