

Dear Floral Park-Bellerose School District Community,

I hope you are enjoying the summer, beautiful weather, and time with your families. I would like to update you with the most current information from New York State Governor Cuomo regarding school openings and also on the progress of our re-entry task force.

At today's press conference, Governor Cuomo stated that New York State would be using a state formula to determine if schools would re-open in person and also use state guidelines to determine how schools would re-open. He stated that New York State is using the most current data and that all decisions would be based on science. Through extensive testing, New York State has collected more data than any other state in the country. He will be issuing state guidelines on July 15<sup>th</sup> and District plans must be submitted to the state by July 31<sup>st</sup>. I have provided you with the link for the Governor's update which includes information about school openings.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYQyFErW\\_Xo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYQyFErW_Xo)

While awaiting guidance from the State, our District has implemented a task force consisting of parents, community members, staff, and administrators who have been working through various sub-committees (Health & Safety, Teaching & Learning, Facilities, and Social & Emotional) to do the preliminary fact finding, brainstorming, and collaboration in order to be prepared to educate our amazing students in the Fall. These sub-committees are currently meeting to discuss a full re-opening, continued virtual model, or hybrid model for this September.

As we explore re-entry strategies, one theme has been clear throughout – all recommendations for groupings include social distancing and when that is not possible, masks will be required. Likely, at some point, staff and students will be asked to wear face coverings. We believe this summer is an opportunity to practice this safety precaution.

A general session with our sub-committee members will be streamed live for our school community in the very near future. I will post information on the website and send a ConnectED call with the connection details specific to this meeting. At this session, our committees will report their findings and recommendations. It is important to note that Governor Cuomo stated he will make his **first** announcement during the week of August 3<sup>rd</sup> whether or not to open schools based on the New York State regional data at that time.

Additionally, you will also receive a re-opening survey during the week of July 20<sup>th</sup> via the website. I will also send out a ConnectED message with detailed information. This survey will provide us with additional valuable input and feedback to utilize as decisions are made for September.

As always, I am available at [ksottile@fpbsd.org](mailto:ksottile@fpbsd.org). Please email any questions or concerns and leave a phone number if you would like a call back. Thank you for your patience and support of our District. I am confident this community will rise to the challenges that we all face as you always do.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Sottile

Superintendent