

**Floral Park-Bellerose School District**  
Administration Office  
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*KATHLEEN SOTTILE, Ed.D.*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

March 9, 2021

**Re: Return to a Regular School Day**

Dear Floral Park-Bellerose School District Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of our next step in returning to a regular full day of school. Starting April 6<sup>th</sup>, we will return to our regular school hours.

Many factors were involved in our decision to return to regular school hours. Here are a few; COVID cases are decreasing, vaccine availability is increasing, the schools are successfully implementing all safety protocols, schools are not identified as spreaders, regions are opening up (entertainment, restaurants, sports), and outdoor spaces will now become available due to Spring weather. Additionally, the CDC is loosening travel restrictions and increasing the number of people allowed at gatherings.

Our first step is to have our specialty area teachers push into the classrooms for instruction and in some cases utilize our gymnasiums and outdoor fields. We will continue to monitor surface level transmission, in the hope of having our students return to the specialty area classrooms. Specific details will be provided by your building principals.

We will return to a regular lunch/recess schedule. Students will continue to eat in their classrooms and have a recess period before or after their lunch. Based on our students' understanding of routines and protocols, we have been able to reallocate staff to cover the lunch and recess. We will also return to a schedule that includes "extra" recess opportunities and spaces to hold them. Building administrators will be working closely with their teachers and staff to organize and prioritize the school day.

We have been receiving some questions regarding our quarantining protocols and we understand that some districts are "quarantining by proximity" - meaning that if a student or staff member is tested as positive – only those within 6 feet are quarantined. Unfortunately, at this point – based on the description of our classes and the proximity of our students (3 to 4 feet between each student, with desk guards and masks)– the Department of Health continues to recommend that the Floral Park-Bellerose School District still quarantine the whole class. We will continue to investigate and follow all new guidelines and protocols as they are made available to us.

We appreciate everyone's patience and perseverance during this school year. The Floral Park-Bellerose School District remains committed to all safety protocols. We will continue to communicate with the Nassau County Department of Health as we investigate all next phases of our educational plan. The health and safety of our staff and students continues to be our top priority. Further information will be sent out in the near future which will include more building level details. The administrators, teachers, and all staff will be collaborating on all aspects of this next phase. Please contact your principal if you have any building specific questions.

Here is our COVID-19 District-wide update as of today (March 9, 2021):

**JLCS-**

3 Positive students

1 Positive staff member who is in the remote program.

3 Quarantining students+ 1 class which consists of 18 students

3 Quarantining staff

**FPBS-**

3 Positive students

0 Positive staff

13 students quarantining + 22 students (class) + 18 students (class), +17 students (class)

2 Quarantining staff

Lastly, I would like to thank our parents for their patience and abiding by all safety precautions throughout the year. I would also like to thank our teachers and all our staff for weathering what has been deemed as one of the most challenging years in education and providing our students with a first-rate education despite COVID-19.

Yours truly,



Dr. Kathleen Sottile

Superintendent of Schools