



# Pace Charter School of Hamilton

July 2020

Dear Pace Families:

With anticipation for a new school year, unlike any other, I am writing to inform you of our plans to return to school this fall. After weeks of careful planning among stakeholders, we have developed what we feel is a flexible and creative approach to returning to school that will offer our students a full program of in-person and remote classes, virtual learning options for students who are unable to attend, and a high standard of safety procedures as recommended by leading health experts. Opening school safely under current conditions requires a number of adjustments. Nevertheless, the essence of the inspiration, joy, and personal engagement of a Pace education will remain strong.

Our full plan is presented in greater detail on our website. A brief outline is offered which includes the following major elements: students will be broken into two cohorts; Cohort A and Cohort B to reduce class size. Cohorts will alternate attending school for in-person instruction on the assigned days.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort A	In-Person	In-Person	Remote	Remote	Remote
Cohort B	Remote	Remote	Remote	In-Person	In-Person

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our first priority has been to research and implement the best practices available for keeping our community safe under the conditions of the pandemic and carefully monitoring all guidance issued by the CDC and State and local governments.

Our approach in school will rely on a combination of:

- Daily health screening and symptom checking
- Physical distancing throughout campus
- Face coverings for all students, faculty, and staff
- Enhanced hygiene and cleaning
- Testing, as appropriate
- Use of open and ventilated spaces
- Isolation and quarantine, as necessary

We will begin the year with intensive health training for all students and staff and require a signed pledge from all of our families attesting to their understanding of and commitment to our shared obligations.

Understandably, some families may anticipate needing special accommodations in the coming year, due to health conditions or other factors. Although you may not be sure yet of these limitations, it would be helpful to know about any such situations as soon as possible, so that we can resolve them as supportively as possible. Please contact Nurse Dewitt if you would like to confidentially raise any of these concerns. [ldewitt@pace.charter.k12.nj.us](mailto:ldewitt@pace.charter.k12.nj.us).

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

## **ACADEMICS**

Our curriculum will be unchanged this year, but they will be conducted in a “blended learning” format that combines in-person and virtual learning. Each student will attend classes in person 2 days and participate virtually for 3 days. This hybrid schedule will allow students to engage in school while also reducing class sizes by half for the sake of careful physical distancing. Students who are unable to come to campus due to health factors will be able to follow the same class rotation in a virtual format.

Supporting our students extends well beyond the academic sphere alone. Our counselor is preparing effective ways to offer students personal and emotional support both on and away from campus.

Temporary modifications to the student dress code are under consideration and will be announced no later than August 15th.

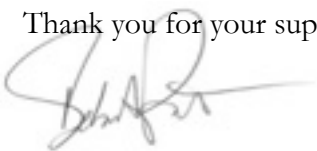
## **KEY DATES – REVISED Calendar Schedule**

- **SEPT. 2, Wednesday** – Cohort A reports to school between 9-12 to pick up technology devices and start remote instruction
- **SEPT. 3, Thursday** - Cohort B reports to school between 9-12 to pick up technology devices and start remote instruction
- **SEPT. 4, Friday** – Remote day Cohort A&B
- **SEPT. 7, Monday** – Closed for Labor Day
- **SEPT. 8, Tuesday** – Hybrid schedule begins, Cohort A reports to school while Cohort B begins remote learning at home.

In all, we believe the plan and procedures outlined in our plan, lay the groundwork for a safe return to school. Challenges undoubtedly lie before us, and with resilience, ingenuity, and a bit of patience, I believe we can create a memorable, happy and productive year.

To assist teachers in finalizing our cohorts, we ask that you *please* take a moment to complete the attached survey by end of today.

Thank you for your support,



Deborah A Pontoriero  
Chief School Administrator