

August 30, 2021

Dear scholars, families, faculty and staff,

We are excited to begin the new school year. Our faculty and staff returned today and are looking forward to welcoming all of our scholars back. I'm writing with some critical information that will impact the first week of school. As a result of the initial guidance issued by the NYS Department of Health on this past Friday evening, August 27, 2021 and long term mitigation planning, the Board of Education has voted to approve changes to the district calendar for the start of the new year. This vote occurred on Monday, August 30, 2021. The recording of that meeting [can be viewed here](#). The district anticipates additional guidance to be issued by the NYSDOH at some point this week. We will continue to keep you updated.

The adjustment of three days has rescheduled the first day of school for students to Thursday, September 9, 2021. Wednesday and Thursday, September 1 and 2, 2021 will now be Superintendent's Conference Days. Friday, September 3, 2021 will be an emergency day and the district will be closed, with the exception of some essential personnel. Our September calendar at a glance [can be found here](#). The additional time will allow the district to receive supplies to add more indoor and outdoor seating to maintain additional physical distancing during meal times. The time will also allow our grounds crew and custodial staff an opportunity to best prepare all of our facilities during those days for this adjustment, which will continue through Friday, September 3, 2021.

With the exception of this change, the district will continue to follow the [2021-2022 Reopening Guidebook](#) that was shared with our NECSD community on Friday, August 20, 2021.

I recognize that you may have questions about how this change may impact the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year calendar and the use of future emergency days. We will be working with our collective bargaining units in the upcoming weeks and will have more information to share soon. I also recognize the inconvenience this may have caused with regards to childcare and assure you that timely communication will be a priority for our team if/when any new guidance is received that changes our current model.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding COVID-19, please continue to use covidhelp@necsd.net or 845-563-3412. If you need assistance with any other matter, please continue to follow the communications protocol for families that [can be found here](#).

Please consider the COVID-19 vaccination if you have not already. The district is offering vaccination distribution dates for the Pfizer vaccine that is authorized for people 12 years of age and older. Sign up information [can be found here](#). Continue to **wash** your hand, **watch** your distance, and **wear** a mask. We are honored to have your support and look forward to our collaboration as we work together to overcome this pandemic. This is an immense responsibility we take very seriously.

Sincerely,



Ed Forgit
Acting Superintendent of Schools