



The Superintendent's Spotlight

Sheila S.-Gorski-DISTRICT 32-February, 2021



February-2021 - Honor African American History

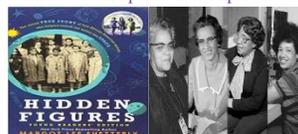


Celebrate LOVE!

Welcome to our Twelfth Virtual CEC Meeting. We want to thank each of you for taking the time from your busy schedules to join us here tonight. It is always a pleasure to engage in community conversations, listen to your comments, questions, and thoughts as we continue school improvement and progress in all areas of our work collaboratively. The month of February, when there is so much Space excitement with SPACE-X Mission to reach Mars in the near future we also celebrate the legacy and excellence of four African American trailblazers and NASA's brilliant African American Scientists whose ingenuity and work was instrumental in the Space race. Katherine Johnson, Math teacher, hired by NASA, worked in trajectory analysis for our first space flight, Alan Shepard's mission Freedom 7 in 1961. In addition to contributions to our first orbital spaceflight by John Glenn, Katherine Johnson also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. Dorothy Vaughan, an expert computer programmer, led the segregated West Area Computing unit at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which later became NASA, NASA's first African American female Engineer, Mary Jackson worked as an engineer for 21 years before becoming the Federal Women's Program Manager where she was committed to improving "the prospects of NASA's female mathematicians, engineers, and scientists", and Dr. Christine Darden, who began as a data analyst at NASA's Langley Research Center before she became an aerospace engineer. She wrote over 50 articles on aeronautics design and her work led to discoveries which "revolutionized aerodynamics design." She became the first African American woman to receive the highest rank within NASA. These Scientists in their time shattered racial and social barriers. These heroines served with courage and leadership. They pioneered the path for women and people of color in search of space exploration. Their commitment and skills continue to inspire us then, now and forever as each persevered in the face of discrimination due to their race and gender. In spite of these obstacles their achievements were not impeded and through determination, intelligence and valor each experienced extraordinary success.

This month we visited numerous classrooms and were able to see the development of our own young scientists as they acquire the learning consistently making meaning with their peers. Some chose to be team leaders, others chose to research and create informative slides to add to their presentations and yet others to launch the conversations. Very similar to the heroines we just discussed who each contributed uniquely and in unstoppable ways presented their purposeful lives. We believe that all students are capable of success, no exceptions! Our students continue to exhibit their learning in multiple ways and like these successful African American Scientists; they too are persevering, with determination and valor. They will not allow the pandemic, remote learning, or any challenges take their learning! For these reasons, we celebrate our past and future scientists, mathematicians, and remember their contributions to our young leaders of this global society.

Sources: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Who Helped Win the Space Race is a 2016 nonfiction book written by Margot Lee Shetterly & CNN





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REOPENING MIDDLE SCHOOLS SAFELY

Middle Schools Reopened today for all Middle School Students, (Thursday, February 25th)

Yesterday approximately 60,000 staff members returned to 149 buildings and 335 schools. Today an estimated number of 62, 000 students have returned to in-person learning and many are returning to five days of in-person instruction. As we reopen school buildings to students in grades 6, 7, and 8 we want to assure all our families that we are conscientiously prioritizing health and safety, while intentionally affording educational experiences of learning via committed educators who will bring relational in person instruction.

My District Response Team, BCO Lead Supports, our Principals and their Teams have been planning for this day from the moment we went into remote learning back in March 2020. We have also learned from these unprecedented times and its ruthless reveals. As a result, our principals have designed an in-person plan for each of their grades and each of their students which includes all safety and health policies, such as ensuring classrooms are prepared with sanitized classrooms, physical distancing and all PPE containers are set up and plentiful. Teams strategized grade and class placement and programming, teacher assignments, specific social emotional learning within lessons and via service providers, courses in the core subjects, and enrichment courses. In addition, they have been charged with the design of a contingency plan. This plan was designed in the event that any school or all schools may have to go on fully remote instruction. That plan includes the same as the in person plan with additional resources, such as digital devices, digital curriculum software, paper materials, hard copy packets and resources.

Currently, our schools are prepared to deliver support for all students instructionally, socially and emotionally. As we reopen our schools we expect this continued support from our school community ensuring that the staff, school leaders, our BCO colleagues, our students and their families all work together in student attendance, communication, and health and safety policies. We look forward to a successful semester leading us to a productive completion of the 2021 school year.

Middle School Students returning to 5 day In-Person Learning

6-8th grade students returning to 5 day In-Person Instruction – 894

6-8th grade students returning to 4 day In-Person Instruction – 030

6-8th grade students returning to 3 day In-Person Instruction – 258

For Your Information

Attendance – February 24, 2021

Remote = 91.9%

In-Person = 91.3%

Combined = 91.6%

Year -to-Date Combined = 88.2%

Year-to-Date Remote = 88.5%

Year-to-Date In-Person = 86.9%



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Continuing to Maintain Safe Schools



Our Gold Standard



Our testing partners visit district schools weekly and test randomly selected groups of staff and students from grades 1-5 and now grades 6-8.

Reminders: A student returning to in-person learning must have a signed consent form for in-school COVID-19 testing by the first day the student returns to the school building.

- Testing helps protect our schools and broader communities--learn more on our website
- Schools will continue to have testing on a weekly basis
- The test is quick, safe, and easy. If you have not submitted a consent form and your youth is learning in person, you must do so right away. Without the signed consent form the school leader will have no choice but to place the student in full remote instruction. For these reasons, it is critical that you submit the consent form without delay
- Your consent will remain in effect until September 30, 2021. However, you can withdraw consent at any time

Exemptions

Exemptions will only be granted in certain limited cases:

- For students who need a medical exemption, due to a health condition that would make it unsafe to undergo testing (e.g., facial trauma, nasal surgery), use the Student Medical Exemption Form. This form must be signed by a physician and you must submit medical documentation from a health care provider
- For students with disabilities who cannot be safely tested in school due to the nature of their disability, use the Student with Disabilities Exemption Form
- Why is this consent form important? This form allows our testing team to administer the test for COVID 19 and assists in mitigating the low percentages of positive cases we have been able to sustain. Let me first congratulate all of you and our school leaders and teams because presently, our positive percentage rate is, 0.58% which confirms that our Gold Standard is effectively working on behalf of our first principle which is health and safety. Let's keep that going as we do away with this virus in our nation and throughout our world.



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What You Need to Know about Communication & Access to Your Student's Information at a Glance

Benefits of Having a NYCSA

If you do not already have a NYCSA account: You can create one right away! If you have an account creation code from your school, you can create a full account in approximately five minutes, and then provide consent as described. Within this account you will be able to fill out the consent form quickly and with ease. If you do not have an account creation code from your school, you can still provide your consent right away by clicking "Manage Consent" under "COVID-19 Testing" and filling out your information and your child's information to provide consent.

2) Print and sign the attached form and bring it to your youth's school on the first day they are back in the school building. A printable PDF file is available in ten languages at [COVID-19 Testing for Students and Staff](#)



We will continue to need your support in filling out the testing forms signed for testing consent. Once again it is free, painless and results are available within a reasonable time. They are also confidential; only you will see your youth's results. We must follow this guidance to battle against this and together we will succeed. See Link Below:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/student-journey/nyc-schools-account>

Other benefits families have when they have a NYCSA account include:

If you do not have a NYCSA account, please reach out to your Parent Coordinator for assistance on how to apply for it.

- Communication with the schools and emails sent from the DOE
- Easy access to report cards
- information regarding your student



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Remember our Guiding Principles:

Even if we receive the vaccinations we must continue to wear a mask and follow all PPE policies until the CDC informs us otherwise. See below:

Health and Safety



No matter where we go, in school buildings, or elsewhere we should remain at least 6 feet apart. We will continue to work with our schools to create conditions that make physical distancing possible.



It is important that we continue to practice general prevention measures including: washing our hands with soap and water often Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands. Avoid shaking hands. Instead, wave or elbow bump. Monitor your health more closely than usual for cold or flu symptoms.



Face coverings are required inside school buildings. Exceptions will be developmentally-and age-appropriate, consistent with guidance of health agencies, and paired with increased Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff. NYCDOE is procuring and distributing appropriate PPE for students and staff to use when inside school buildings.



If you or your child feels sick:

Stay home and call your doctor if you have symptoms like coughing, shortness of breath, fever, sore throat. If you do not feel better in 24-48 hours, contact your doctor. Do not go to school or to work until you have been fever-free for at least 72 hours. If you need help getting medical care, call 311.



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FAMILY INFORMATION, RESOURCES & LINKS

Devices for Remote Learning

Do you need technical support or to fix a broken device, or are dealing with a lost or stolen device? Call DOE's IT Help desk at 718-935-5100 and press 5 to get assistance.

You can also get quick help online:

☉ **Browse tech support topics:** <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home/technical-tools-and-support>

☉ **File a tech support ticket:** <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home/technical-tools-and-support/ipads-and-laptops/technical-support-for-families>

☉ **Request a device:** If your student needs a device or internet connection for remote or blended learning, please contact your school who will help match your student's needs to a device and/or internet connectivity. See Link below:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home/technical-tools-and-support/ipads-and-laptops/ipad-requests>

If your school does not have devices on hand and the student does not have a device or internet connectivity at home, the staff can fill out a request for a centrally-loaned iPad or hotspot to be delivered to the school for you to pick up.

✦ **Get support with a DOE-issued iPad:** <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home/technical-tools-and-support/ipads-and-laptops/ipad-fixes>

❖ **Issues with your Internet connection:** <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home/technical-tools-and-support/ipads-and-laptops/free-and-low-cost-internet-options>

❖ **If you need Technical Support please use the link here below:**

[https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home/technical-tool support/technical-support-for-families](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home/technical-tool-support/technical-support-for-families)

- UFT FAFSA/TAP/NYS Dream Act Completion Events February 24 and March 3. See here for more information and register here
- The Noel Pointer String Players at the Noel Pointer Foundation is a free program, which meets weekly and performs regularly throughout New York City. Auditions will occur this Saturday, February 27th at 2 pm (in-person) and Sunday, February 28th at 2 pm (virtual).
- The DOE testing calendar may be found [here](#) and the DOE testing web page is [here](#).





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IMPORTANT **ANNOUNCEMENT**



March Parent Teacher Conferences

- Parent teacher conferences begin on March 3, 2021. View the full schedule on the [2020-21 School Year Calendar page](#).

The 2020-21 school year is unlike any other that we have experienced. Students are learning at school and home, and family members are playing supportive roles as educators, facilitators, and coaches. The upcoming Parent Teacher Conference (PTC) is an important opportunity for teachers to hear from you about how your student is doing academically, socially, and emotionally, and how the school's supports are working for your family. The PTC is also an opportunity for educators to provide you with feedback about your child's academic and social-emotional progress, and what you can do to support your child. If your child is having trouble, you and your child's teacher can figure out an action plan.

What to Expect at the Conference

- Translation and Interpretation Services

We want all families to participate in PTC! Interpreters are available, so please let your teacher or parent coordinator know if you need interpretation services.

Scheduling

Teachers will work with families to schedule conferences during a time that is mutually convenient for both to attend. If a teacher is unable to schedule a phone or virtual PTC meeting on an afternoon or evening during the week of their regularly scheduled PTC, the teacher will work with you to schedule another time to connect.

Conferences will be held by phone or through videoconference, unless the parent requests an in-person conference which will be collaborated on to ensure the health and safety policies remain in place.



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Events, Dates and Other Resources

The PTC is an opportunity for you to speak with your child about their experience with remote learning, and share their questions and concerns with their teacher.

- You can track your child's education on any computer, phone, or tablet? You can also sign the COVID consent form, right in the NYC Schools Account (NYCSA). You can sign up for an account by entering a few basic details. This will allow you to begin receiving notifications from the DOE. It only takes five minutes, and it is the first step in getting a full account.
- Sign up for a NYC Schools Account! It's important that your school can reach you to share crucial information quickly, including alerts about confirmed COVID-19 cases in your child's school. Please sign up for a NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) so we can contact you via phone, email, or text message. With NYCSA, you can access your child's grades, test scores, schedules, transportation information, and more – from anywhere, and in all nine standard DOE language translations. In order to see your child's records, request an Account Creation Code from your school. If you do not have an account, sign up today <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/nycsa> It only takes five minutes

Sunday, February 28, 2021 is the last day to apply to run for a CCEC council seat..

- [Learn more about running and how to apply now](#), before it is too late!
- <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/education-council-elections-2021/run-for-a-seat-on-a-council>
- [Education Council Elections 2021](#)
- 2021 is an election year for New York City's Education Councils. Run 2021, and serve on your district or one of the citywide councils. [Apply now for an Education Council Seat](#)

2021- The Year of Hope & Excellence!



Stay Healthy and Safe

****We are here for you! A Community of ONE!***

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