

Holmstead School
14 Hope Street
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
201-447-1696
www.holmstead.org

Stephen Kuwent, Psy.D.
Director

Barbara O'Dea Supervisor
of Education
Brett Vargo Principal

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Dear Students and Parents,

After careful consideration of NJDOE and NJDOH directives along with feedback from parents, teachers and case managers, Holmstead has revised it's reopening plan. The major difference is that we will be operating on a ½ day schedule for daily in-person instruction. The school hours will be **8:15 – 12:35** with homeroom taking place from 8:15 – 8:30 and the 1st class starting at 8:35. This plan now eliminates lunch and rec arts/PE from the school day. As such, there will not be any time where students or staff would have to take their masks off. Please notify us if you are aware of any of your students requiring mask wearing accommodations, so we can develop an appropriate educational program for them. Teachers will be available to provide additional support, instruction and Teams/Zoom meetings from 1:30 – 2:30 daily. Individual therapy will continue to take place during the school day with groups taking place through Zoom in the afternoons. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Bus companies should be notifying you of pick-up times Feel free to call the CST office or the transportation office of your district if you have any questions. We anticipate a few transportation wrinkles during the first week of school; especially with the COVID-19 transportation restrictions. All problems will be addressed promptly in order to promote smoothness early on.

Students: Please remember that, according to new guidelines from the NJDOE, **masks must be worn at all times in school** other than lunch. Mask breaks, if needed, will be provided during the day. You will receive your schedule upon arrival and you will select your recreational arts activities. There will be a short assembly prior to the beginning of classes on the first day. Please think about which students you would like to be with for homeroom since this will be your lunch group as well. All lunches/snacks must be brought from home. There will be no food for sale in school. Teachers will let you know supplies necessary to purchase for certain classes.

Parents: Please advise us of any changes in address, contact and emergency phone numbers and medical information. If there is a medical reason that your child cannot wear a mask in school, please notify the office immediately so that reasonable accommodations can be developed.

Review allJ enclosures regarding the upcoming year and sign and return the information sheets. I look forward to seeing the students **September 2nd** to begin a safe and enjoyable school year. Sincerely,

Stephen Kuwent, Psy.D.
Director