

8/13/2021

Dear Pen Ryn Community,

I am writing to update you on our protocols and procedures for the upcoming school year. In July, I sent an email with our Covid Response Plan, which identified two levels of response based upon community transmission. These levels were identified as Blue and Gold. Since that email, Covid-19 cases in the Bucks County region have steadily increased. We are now in the Substantial Zone of Community Transmission, and therefore will start the school year in the GOLD Level. Please see the attached document for an overview of the components of this zone, and what you can expect for your child's school experience, while transmission is at this level.

The decision to start the school year in the Gold Zone was one that was made with careful consideration of the recommendations of the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, as well as guidance from medical experts in our own school community who are working in area healthcare settings. ***The priority of our school remains the safety of our students and staff, as well as protecting the in-person learning environment.*** The Delta Variant of Covid-19 is now impacting children and vaccinated adults. There are also concerns that this variant is more transmissible than the original strain. We are not willing to put the safety of our students and staff at risk while transmission levels remain elevated. In addition, we can all agree that virtual learning is not ideal for students, and as a school we have dedicated ourselves to putting into place all procedures necessary to avoid the need for temporary closure due to the transmission of Covid-19 in our school community. In some parts of the United States, schools are already transitioning to virtual learning as a result of returning to school without masking requirements, and we want to avoid that possibility for our students, staff, and families.

We also feel that by using masking as a mitigation strategy, students can return to working in groups, collaborating with peers, and participating in extracurricular activities. We have spent a year fine-tuning how to safely provide educational experiences for our students and continue to host community events. By using methods that have proven effective in the past, we know we can safely offer these events for the 2021-22 school year, also.

Our goal is with Universal Masking while indoors, as well as layered prevention strategies outlined in the attached document, we will once again be able to navigate this period of higher transmission. When transmission returns to low levels, we can switch to the Blue Zone. Each zone is identified with specific metrics, so that we can move in and out of each level as needed.

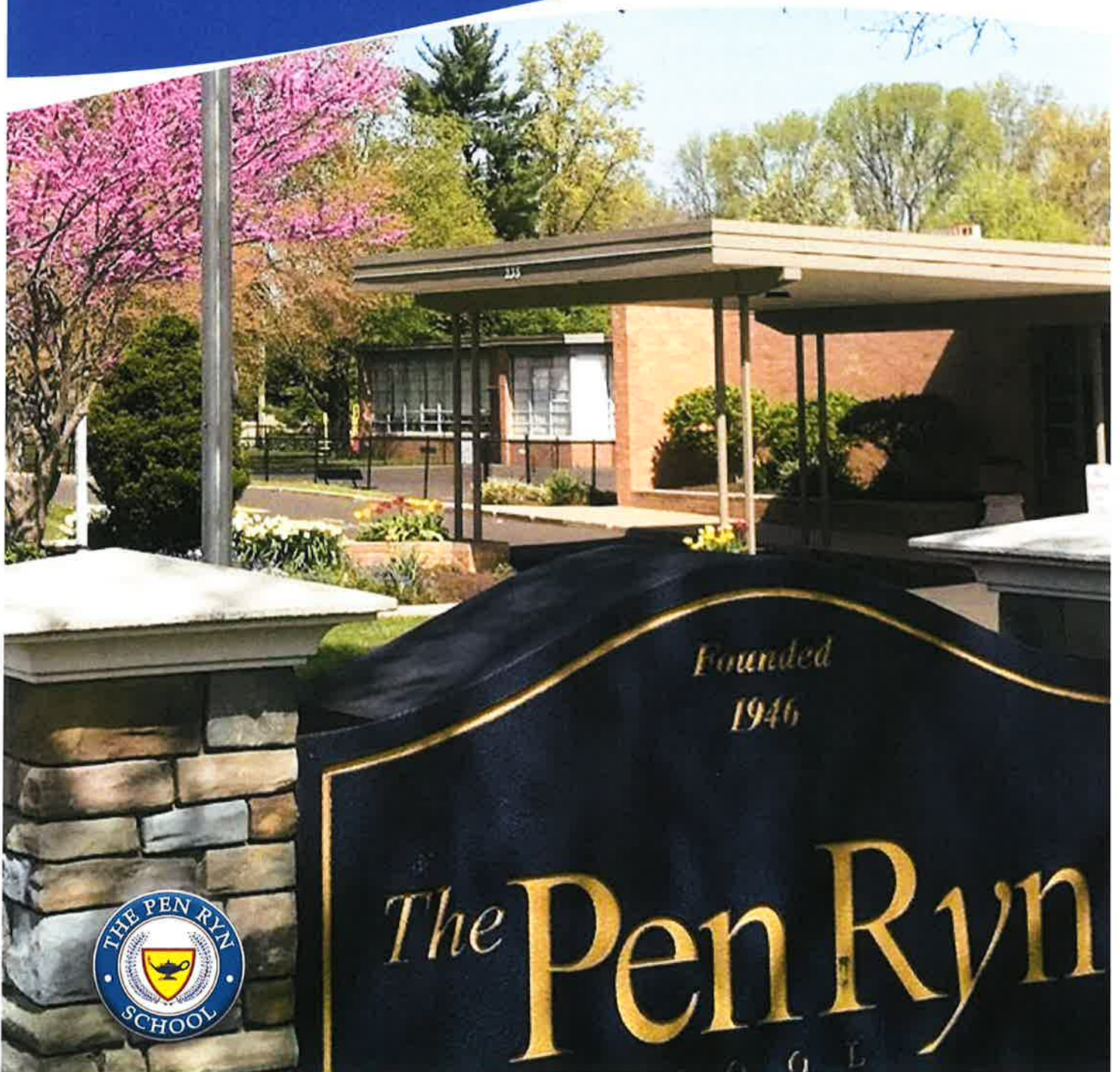
Also attached to this email is an explanation of how SPIRIT school will function this year. Please read this carefully. We recommend that all students attend school in-person, but will have procedures in place for remote learning in all grade levels when the need arises.

I understand that some families will be disappointed to be starting the year in the Gold Zone. I also was hopeful in June that we could return to school without Covid precautions and Remote Learning options. I was hopeful for a year where we could simply focus on teaching your child. However, my role as a school leader is to make the best decision for our entire community, with the current information, guidance, and recommendations provided. I feel that over the last 18 months, those decisions have allowed us to remain in-person, in a safe learning environment, while our students have progressed academically and thrived socially. Though there are varying viewpoints on this issue, personally, I am not willing to risk even one child in our school being negatively impacted by a diagnosis of Covid-19 if I believe it could have been avoided.

Please review the attached documents, and let me know if you have any questions!

Leigh Reed

The Pen Ryn School
LEARNING PLAN
2021-2022



INTRODUCTION

Pen Ryn School believes that *in-person learning* is the best option for all students in the 2021-22 school year. There will not be a full year remote learning option for students. We recommend that all students attend school in the building. Having students consistently in school will allow our teachers to plan the creative and engaging class activities that our school is founded upon. This includes reading groups, science labs, partner activities and cross-curricular project based learning.

SAFETY STRATEGY



In order to protect in-person learning and promote the health and safety of our students and staff, we are using the following mitigation strategies which proved effective during the 2020-21 school year:

- Masking protocols based on community transmission
- Rigorous cleaning protocols
- Handwashing
- Volunteer/Visitor Policies
- Social Distancing
- Covid screening and testing protocols

(Refer to our Blue and Gold Covid Response Plan for more detailed information)

STUDENT ATTENDANCE



Due to Covid-19 still being a concern for the community, we acknowledge that there may be times when students are not able to attend school in-person. *Examples include:*

- Mandatory isolation or quarantine due to Covid diagnosis or exposure
- Possible symptoms of Covid that require absence from school
- Medical or health needs that put a student "at-risk" during times of high transmission

Therefore, in order for students to stay on pace with the rest of their class, we recognize that students will need an option for learning from home. So, prior to 8 am, parents are required to contact the teacher and school nurse to transition to Spirit School.

SPIRIT SCHOOL GRADE-LEVEL PLANS

Over the last 18 months we have had the opportunity to fine-tune and reflect on what our remote learning option looks like and what works best for each grade level both learning at home, as well as for the students learning within the classroom. The following plan is in place and varies by grade-level.

TERMS TO KNOW



Simultaneous learning

Students at home are watching lessons via Zoom, at the same time as students in the classroom are learning.

Synchronous Learning

Students are completing their classwork and following the school schedule for each lesson.

Asynchronous Learning

Students are completing their classwork at their own pace, while at home.

WHAT SPIRIT SCHOOL LOOKS LIKE:

PreK3-1st

- Simultaneous learning will not be offered.
- Students will be provided with the classwork each day and it can be completed Asynchronously. A teacher will be available to answer questions and support during scheduled times.

Grades 2-3

- A blend of asynchronous and simultaneous synchronous learning will be offered.
- Students will attend their core subjects (Reading, Writing, and Math) via Zoom.
- The remainder of their assignments will be posted on Google Classroom for completion independently.

Grades 4-8

- Simultaneous Synchronous learning will be offered.
- Students will participate in Math, Reading, Writing, Social Studies and Science via Zoom.
- Specialist classes (Art, Music, Gym) will not be streamed.
- At times, if the lesson requires a hands-on in-person component, the student will participate in the direct instruction portion of the lesson and will then work independently for the remainder of the class-time.

The Pen Run School COVID Response Plan 2021-2022

LEVEL 1: BLUE

According to the CDC, the level of community transmission in Bucks County=low.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

No evidence of school transmission.

Supported by guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Center for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Learning Format

In-Person Learning ONLY.



Masking

Optional. (Masking is recommended for unvaccinated or medically compromised individuals).



Social-Distancing

Desks are not required to be six feet apart. Student collaboration allowed.



Cohorting

Grade levels allowed to co-mingle but in smaller groups.



Recess

Recess will be in smaller grade level groupings. (Example: 1st and 2nd grade instead of 1st-4th grades). Masks will not be required.



Lunch

Grades 1-8 will eat lunch in the cafeteria in smaller grade level groups to allow for maximum spacing. PreK3-K will eat lunch in their classrooms.



After School Activities

Clubs and sports will resume in-person.



Community Events

School wide/PTO events allowed. Will take place outside when possible.



Volunteers

Parent volunteers allowed in the building who have their clearances on file. Immunocompromised or unvaccinated visitors should be masked.



Cleaning

Daily cleaning. Weekly deep cleaning. Continued hand-washing protocols.



Ventilation

Continued use of air purification systems and access to fresh air from open windows.



Testing/Screening

Students with Covid-like symptoms will need to be tested prior to return to school. Families should continue to monitor their children for Covid-like symptoms.



The Pen Ryn School COVID Response Plan 2021-2022

LEVEL 2: GOLD

According to the CDC, the level of community transmission in Bucks County = substantial/high

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

Confirmed cases in the Pen Ryn community.

Concern for transmission of Covid-19 at Pen Ryn.

Recommended by guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Center for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Learning Format

In-Person Learning AND Remote Learning options for students with permission from school due to:

- Quarantine or isolation requirement
- Medical/health need
- Possible symptoms of Covid



Masking

Indoor universal (*students and staff*) masking will be required.



Social-Distancing

Three feet apart at a minimum. Student collaboration allowed with masking.



Cohorting

Indoors, students will primarily be with their class or grade level cohort.



Recess

Recess will take place in smaller cohorts and masks will be optional.



Lunch

Grade levels will eat in their cohorts spaced 6 feet apart. Students will not eat in the cafeteria.



After School Activities

After school clubs will be offered. Interscholastic sports to be determined.



Community Events

School wide/PTO events determined on individual basis.



Volunteers/Visitors

Parent volunteers will be limited. All volunteers and visitors will be required to wear masks indoors.



Cleaning

Daily deep cleaning. Continued hand-washing protocols.



Ventilation

Continued use of air purification systems and access to fresh air from open windows.



Testing/Screening

Students with Covid-like symptoms will need to be tested prior to return to school. Families should continue to monitor their children.



