



Daniel A. Vecchiano
Principal

Dr. Robert J. Quinlan
AP of Humanities and Guidance

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Frank Proudfoot
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August 1, 2020

Dear Brooklyn Arts Community,

First and foremost, I hope this letter finds you, your families, and your loved ones well and safe. This has truly been a period of time in our history like no other. I also hope you have had a chance, along with our 986 students and 100 staff members, to enjoy some of the summer and get back to some sense of normalcy as we get ready for the upcoming school year.

This update is not going to be perfect as health protocol and regulations are updated on a daily basis. I acknowledge this from the outset, as I understand that given the parameters put forth by the State, the City, the Department of Education, and the physical limitations of our shared building, opening our school is a challenge like no other. To that end, I want to share with you some of what we have come up with to keep you informed. Please understand that everything I share with you today is subject to change at a moments notice, and possibly change multiple times, before I communicate with you again.

Our schedule of attending school will be one of the Chancellor’s suggested models, specifically Model 1B, demonstrated below. We are dividing our school by **students’ Studios**. The Studios are Fine Arts, Theater, Music (Instrumental **and** Vocal), and Dance. We are able to split the student population uniformly by doing this. This will greatly enhance Brooklyn Arts’ ability to ensure the vast course offerings we typically offer in a ‘normal year’ so that Advanced Placement, double art courses, and other popular elective courses will not be affected or cut.

Each day, based on the model below, a different ‘team’ will come into school.

Fine Art and Theater will be “Team Blue”

Dance and Music (Instrumental and Vocal) will be “Team Gold”

Brooklyn Arts Fall 2020 – Chancellor’s Suggested Model 1B

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Team Blue	Team Blue	Team Blue	Team Gold	Team Gold
Week 2	Team Gold	Team Blue	Team Blue	Team Gold	Team Gold
Week 3	Team Blue	Team Blue	Team Blue	Team Gold	Team Gold
Week 4	Team Gold	Team Blue	Team Blue	Team Gold	Team Gold



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This allows for our students to attend school for 3 days live, 3 days remote, then 2 days live, 2 days remote every 2 weeks. The students will receive their regular 9 period class program, with some major adjustments. The list will grow, but these are the adjustments for now.

- The day will start 30 minutes later than normal. Period 1 will start at 9 AM. 9th period will end at 2:30 PM.
- Students will be assessed as they enter our building each day. Any student who presents with symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home, and we will reach out to families immediately. **Re-entry to the building will only be possible with a negative test for COVID-19 from a Medical Professional, on their office's letterhead.** Masks are to be worn at all times in the building. The assigned teachers in the rooms will provide breaks. Of course, meals will be mask free.
- Lunch will be served inside the assigned classroom. Breakfast will be available in the mornings as the students walk in, as a grab-and-go option.
- The students will be assigned a room in the building, and that will be their location for the day. They will not travel room-to-room like normal, as we have to be able to keep track of the students' whereabouts at all times. This is for everyone's safety. As you might've heard the Mayor and Chancellor say, one confirmed case of COVID-19 by a student or adult will mean that the room (and everyone assigned to it) will be quarantined for 2 weeks. 2 or more classrooms on quarantine means the whole school will be quarantined for 2 weeks.
- Music, Theater, and Dance classes will NOT have an in-person "performance" component. They will learn important concepts and skills that they can apply to performance from home.
- Physical Education will also be entirely concept based, with no playing permitted at this time.

Basically, the students will still follow their program, like normal, but from a computer using our *Google Classroom* platform and *Pupil Path*. The students will be taught remotely by their regular teachers listed on their official program on a daily basis. The educators in the rooms assigned to them will act as coaches, helping the students with any questions, concerns, and to facilitate the Social-Emotional aspect of our curriculum. This will give us the flexibility and continuity to teach in this hybrid model or a fully remote model and adapt to either model at a



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moment's notice with little to zero interruption in a student's daily academic and artistic engagement.

Obviously, it'll be most important to keep that continuity as we hope to return to our normal, in-person, '5 days a week' schedule. Please understand that this is not what any of us expected to present to you as our opening. We have created a number of plans since June, and all of them had to be altered based on what is happening in the world. This plan gives us the best chance at getting the most students in the building safely, and keep everyone safe in our school community. It also allows for the best option to keep our robust curriculum secure, and to ensure that your children continue to get the education we all expect from Brooklyn High School of the Arts.

As things change, hopefully for the better, I will do my best to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Vecchiano

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