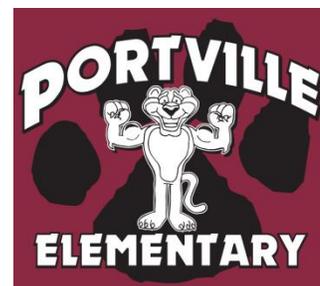


August 13, 2020



To: PCS Elementary Families

From: Lynn Corder, Principal

Re: 2020/21 Schedule and Placement

Dear PCS Families:

I am writing to share news about our planning for the 2020/21 school year which will prove to be unlike any school year we have ever experienced. We are preparing to bring back all students for in-person learning on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. In working through the New York State guidance on the reopening of schools, we have created eleven new classroom spaces for Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade as we needed to reduce each classroom size to maintain social distancing within each space.

As I review the details of our plan with you, please know that opening under COVID-19 regulations is not what any of us would hope for our students this year. With that being said, I do believe what we have thoughtfully (and painstakingly) put together is the best possible plan, given the current situation of the national pandemic we are living in. As much as we would like to hire eleven additional teachers for these spaces, we know this is not financially possible. We have worked with our staff to create a schedule that will look much different than our usual schedule. In place of a traditional classroom, whereas your child would be assigned to just one classroom teacher, we have created Dens for each grade level where children will be scheduled to spend their entire day. The concept of Dens is due to the fact that Panther Cubs are raised in dens, we simply felt this would be the best way to support all children during these unprecedented times. The classroom teachers at each grade level will travel from Den to Den each day to deliver the lessons. The chart below depicts the number of Dens per grade level and the teachers assigned to support the children for that grade level. Special Area Teachers and Teacher Aides will also be assigned to each grade level to support the Dens.

Grade level	Number of Dens	Grade Level Teachers
Pre-Kindergarten	4	Mrs. Carls, Mrs. Ewings
Kindergarten	4	Mrs. Lott, Ms. Reynolds, Mrs. Simon
1 <sup>st</sup>	5	Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Doty, Mrs. Milne, Mrs. Yehl
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5	Miss Bricker, Mrs. MacWilliams, Mrs. Marsfelder
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4	Mrs. Artlip, Miss Ulasewicz, Mrs. Wilson
4 <sup>th</sup>	6	Mrs. Abdo, Mrs. Bussman, Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Threehouse
5 <sup>th</sup>	5	Mrs. Bowser, Mrs. Kloc, Mr. Rogers
6 <sup>th</sup>	5	Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Enos, Mr. Luther, Mrs. Warner

All grade levels will have 2-3 special area teachers assigned every 13 weeks throughout the school year. As an example, Kindergarten will have physical education, music and science for the first 13 weeks of school. We are creating a schedule that has children staying within their Den daily and the teachers rotate in and out as a means to control the amount of contact. Lunches will be served in Dens also for all elementary students. We are planning for a shortened day. The elementary will be the traditional start time (7:40 AM) and the day will end at 1:00 PM. The middle/high school will run 9:00 AM-2:30 PM daily. PreK will be set up as  $\frac{1}{2}$

sessions only with two Dens daily from 7:40 AM-9:55 AM and two additional Dens from 10:35 AM-1:00 PM. The schedule at the elementary will be built on seven blocks whereas classroom teachers, special area teachers or a teacher aide will rotate approximately every 40 minutes. The classroom teachers will focus in a specific area such as Literacy (Reading/Writing), Math, Social Studies and Science.

Some of you may have questions regarding the safety precautions we are putting in place. You can read the District's reopening plan on our web page. I did want to mention that children will be able to take off their masks once seated at their desks in their Den and will only need to wear them when they are not able to social distance throughout the day. Masks will be required while they are working in teams, traveling through our hallways, on school busses and other areas/times where they are not able to social distance. The District will be supplying masks for all students and staff daily.

In the next couple of weeks, we will be finalizing the lists for each Den and will notify you as soon as practicable, as there is still much planning needed. As I stated earlier, please know that this plan is not what we would ideally hope for our PCS children and teachers, however, it is the best we can do to return the children to in-person learning which we believe is critical in their development. I do believe the model we put in place last Spring during this Pandemic was a learning curve for everyone. The plan we are currently developing will allow our grade level teachers to get to know all the children at their grade level and be in a better position to support them and our families if we need to move towards remote learning over the course of the coming school year. Mr. Simon, our Superintendent, is planning to hold informational meetings with our families in the coming weeks to address specific questions you may have. Please visit our District web page for updates on the reopening plan at [Portvillecsd.org](http://Portvillecsd.org).

Thanks for all you do!

Lynn Corder  
Elementary Principal (PK - 6)  
Portville Central School