

Dear Ascend Families:

As the current academic year comes to a close and summer plans get underway we want to thank you again for being part of our Ascend community and share some news about the coming academic year.

As stated in our March 19 letter to families, the first day of school will come slightly earlier than past years with students in grades K-8 beginning on August 16 and students in grades 9-12 beginning on August 23. At this time, ***we expect to bring nearly every student back to in-person learning 5 days per week.*** We believe that learning happens best when students and teachers are together in person, and the health and safety protocols we implemented this year have proven effective in providing a safe learning environment for students and staff. We look forward to welcoming all students back to our beautiful classrooms this fall.

Ascend will offer only a very limited remote learning option in the fall for children with a physician-approved and documented medical need (unless New York State decides not to permit remote learning at all). ***Please notify us of your child's anticipated medical need for remote learning using [THIS FORM](#) on or before June 11.***

When returning to campus this fall Ascend will continue to follow health and safety protocols consistent with evolving state and local guidance. Examples of these protocols include daily health screenings, required face covering for every individual on campus, regular use of hand sanitizing stations for students and staff, multiple daily cleanings of each building, and optimized ventilation and air filtration. While all of these practices have proven effective in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus in schools, all health agencies and officials agree that ***the very best way to keep our students, staff and community safe is to ensure that everyone who is eligible gets vaccinated as soon as possible.***

Ascend is not requiring students or staff to be vaccinated in order to return to school this fall. However, we strongly encourage everyone to learn about the vaccines that are now readily available and consider protecting yourself and our Ascend community by getting vaccinated. We can eliminate this pandemic and keep our communities safe by working together to prevent further cases. You can find additional information about where to get the vaccine near your school using the enclosed map.

Thank you again for being part of our amazing Ascend community. Over the summer you will receive additional information from your school about specific dates and times for family orientation. This important session will provide your family with the most current information available about health and safety protocols, daily schedules, and all of the details your family needs to prepare for our exciting return to school this fall. As always, if you have any additional questions right now, would like to learn more about your school's current health and safety protocols, or would like to discuss your child's learning experience, please contact your school leader.

In partnership,

Recy Dunn  
Chief Executive Officer

Brandon Sorlie  
Chief Schools Officer