

TRCS Re-Opening

Priorities and Practicalities as we go forward



We miss your children! And we all want to get them back in the building, but

We will do that safely

Living our Mission

- Social-Emotional Well-Being
- High Academic Standards
- Family Engagement
- Health and Safety of Staff and Students

PRIORTIES

- The mission of TRCS is to *“foster educated, responsible, humanistic young leaders who will through their own educational development and personal growth spark a renaissance in New York City and beyond. Its graduates will be global citizens with an abiding respect for peace, human rights, the environment and sustainable development.”*

**How do we live our mission
under these circumstances?**

- Ensuring that all students will engage in a comprehensive standards-aligned academic program—whether remote or in-school or a “hybrid” combination of each.
- Addressing the needs of the “whole child” through a variety of strategies including virtual and/or in-person project-based and experiential learning and morning meetings, advisories, counseling and other practices to promote social-emotional development.
- Continuing our commitment to civic education and fostering student empathy, advocacy, activism and global citizenship by exploring ways to foster student community action and advocacy through virtual or safe, in-person means.
- Keeping our community healthy and safe.

We recognize that our students and staff have undergone great stress, trauma and grief throughout this experience, and we are fully prepared to support them in managing their way back to academic life.

- We will be adding 3 more mental-health providers through a federal grant program,
- We are developing an expanded morning meeting/advisory system that incorporates mindfulness, social-emotional wellness, and empathetic awareness, in addition to academic counseling and stress-relieving tactics and exercises.
- We will be providing professional development to build a common understanding of trauma and resilience, anti-bias training, and culturally responsive teaching.

School Well-Being

- *Direct, Engaging Instruction*
- *Essential Standards and Project-Based Learning*
- *Diagnostics, Assessments and Progress Monitoring*
- *Culturally Relevant Pedagogy*
- *Equitable Climate*
- *Family Partners*

High Academic Standards

- We will use a phased-in approach to opening our building triggered by constant monitoring of the local health trends; consistent with SED, DOH, CDC and NYCDOE guidance and/or with NYS/NYC mandates.
 - Phase One = 100% Remote Learning
 - Phase Two = Gradual entry to the building, starting with PK-K, and/or some small groups of targeted students, adding grades within margins for safety, while others continue remotely
 - Phase Three = Modification of the ‘hybrid’ approach to improve instruction for students and expand student access to live, in-person on site instruction
 - Phase Four = 100% In-Person on-site learning, or long-term blend of remote and in-person learning for all students.

Phases of Re-Opening

- *Continue and build on the relationships developed through regular check-ins during the pandemic*
- *Continue virtual Parent Association and CSG meetings*
- *Continue regular newsletters*
- *Regular family surveys*
- *Intentional, directed teacher to student interactions*
- *Inventive orientations for our new students*

Family Engagement

- ***Social Distancing***—TRCS will enforce the proper social distancing protocols established by the CDC, DOH and SED.
- ***Wearing Masks***—TRCS expects that everyone entering its building will wear a mask, and keep them on throughout the day, given some ‘mask-breaks’ when we can maintain social distance.
- ***Social Distancing for Physical Education, Music and Other Activities***—TRCS will ensure that a distance of twelve feet in all directions is maintained between individuals while participating in certain activities.

- ***Gatherings***

- ***Meals***—TRCS will provide meals to ***all*** students—delivered to classroom cohorts, or safely distributed to families of remote learners.
- ***Small Spaces***—TRCS will limit gathering in small spaces.
- ***Common Areas***—TRCS will reduce access to, or closing, non-essential amenities and communal areas that do not allow for adequate social distancing protocols to be followed.
- ***Faculty and Staff Meeting***—TRCS will use video or teleconferencing for faculty and staff meetings and conferences to reduce the density of congregations.

- ***Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up***—TRCS will establish designated areas for student drop-off and, limiting contact and entry of parents/legal guardians into the building, to the greatest extent possible.
- ***Daily Health Screening***--TRCS will use a daily screening questionnaire or screening tool for faculty, staff and students reporting to school.
- ***Bus Students***—While it is not yet assured that busing will be available to our students, TRCS will rely on NYCDOE Pupil Transportation to ensure that school bus companies and personnel follow all appropriate guidelines for safety.
- ***Other Public Transportation***—Those families relying on NYC public transportation will be provided with full information and guidance for using public buses, subways, and taxis according to DOH rules.

Health and Safety

Building and Classrooms

TRCS will not provide in-person on site instruction unless and until its building and classrooms meet appropriate health and safety guidelines and requirements. TRCS must rely on NYCDOE to ensure that the building meets all regulatory and health and safety requirements, including:

- ***School Nurse***—TRCS is working with the DOH to make sure we do not lose our school nurse.
- ***Ventilation***—In coordination with DOE, improvements to HVAC systems will be made to improve air circulation, including replacing regular air filters with higher efficiency types.
- ***Space Configurations***—TRCS will modify or reconfigure spaces and areas, and restrict the use of classrooms and other places where students, faculty, and staff gather (lockers, cubbies, entryways, hallways), so that individuals can be socially distanced and are not sharing work-stations, desks, tables, or other shared surfaces without cleaning and disinfection between use.

Health and Safety

- ***Signage***—TRCS will post DOH and CDC-approved signs regarding COVID prevention: hand-washing, mask-wearing, social-distancing, etc. Hallways will have directional signage to limit foot traffic and will post signs limiting the amount of people in restrooms at one time.
- ***Cleaning and Disinfecting***—TRCS will cooperate with our custodial staff to ensure that cleaning and disinfection of the building are performed frequently, according to CDC guidelines. In addition, TRCS will provide appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies to faculty and staff for use in disinfecting shared and frequently touched surfaces.
- ***Maintaining COVID-19 Health Protocols***—TRCS will follow protocols established by the CDC and NYS DOH, if a case is discovered within our school community.

Health and Safety
