



September 25, 2020

Dear Families,

We want to begin by thanking you for your patience, cooperation and support over the last few weeks as this school year is unlike any other before. We know it is difficult to keep up with the constant changes but we want you to know that we are committed to supporting you and working together throughout this process.

There is a lot of information out there, so as per the latest Department of Education Guidance we want to address some changes affecting our P.S. 234 School Community.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has caused a financial hardship on our city and this financial hardship has directly affected the Department of Education. There is a teacher shortage. Due to the teacher shortage and in an effort to make sure that all of our students, both Blended and Remote have a teacher we have had to make changes. At this time some teachers are placed in temporary positions. We have requested additional teachers to fill staffing shortages in our school and we are awaiting their placement.

The Department of Education announced that students who have chosen Blended learning will not have live (synchronous) instruction on days they are learning remotely from home which is a direct result of the teacher shortage. To accommodate this change and make sure that our students are receiving the best education possible, on the days the Blended students are learning remotely, their teacher will be posting assignments on Google classroom and the students will be engaged in asynchronous learning. This means that on those days the student learning will be self-paced and independent as their teacher will be teaching the other Cohort which will be in school, therefore there will be no live instruction on those days. Fully remote students will continue to receive synchronous and asynchronous instruction five days a week.

\*Synchronous Learning means live instruction and interaction between the teacher and the student.

\*Asynchronous learning refers to instruction and learning opportunities that do not feature students and teachers interacting at the same time. Asynchronous learning activities enable students to work at their own pace so they can learn the same material at different time independently.

As per the Department of Education Teacher Office Hours have been built into every teacher's daily schedule. Teacher Office Hours are daily from 2:00 PM to 2:20 PM. Please take advantage of this time to meet with your child's teacher regarding any questions you may have.

For these reasons it is vital that you are connected with your child's teacher and the school. We pride ourselves in providing you with the most updated information as we receive it from the Department of Education. Please make sure that you fill out the digital blue card, that we have your personal email on file and that you are checking our school website <https://www.ps234queens.com/> and Google Classroom daily for updates/guidance.

Please note the Supervisors for each grade are Ms. Karaiskos, Grades Pre-K-2 and Ms. Papathomas, Grades 3-5. Please also note that our Parent Coordinator, Mr. Brown can be emailed at [jbrown112@school.nyc.gov](mailto:jbrown112@school.nyc.gov) to support you with any questions you may have. Please refer to the Cohort Schedule to ensure your child is in school on the correct days, which is located on the P.S.234 website. [P.S.234 Cohort Calendar](#).

Together we can make this school year productive and safe for all of our students. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Stay safe, be well and remain strong P.S. 234 Families,

Ms. Danner

Principal