



65 Highland Avenue
PO Box 339
Peapack, NJ 07977
908-234-0011
www.matheny.org

June 28, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, School District Representatives, and School Personnel:

Our continued goal has been to provide the optimum quality and quantity of IEP services as safely as possible. Our goal has been further refined to offer hybrid in-person options by the Extended School Year (ESY) and 5-day-a-week instruction starting in the fall. To that end, we have constructed two new classrooms and started to hire back paraprofessionals, nurses, and other positions not required in the last school year when we were virtual. As many of you are aware from the news, the labor markets are very tight and although we have coverage for all the teachers, there are some positions vacant due to family emergencies, life changes, and challenges related to onboarding.

We have made great strides together – all the new iPads and laptops are here and shall be deployed this week. We have Google Suite for Educators and Zoom Professional which enables our teachers to teach synchronous materials for all students as needed. In the interest of safety, ***all students will remain virtual for the start of the ESY because of staffing concerns and approval by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) of classroom spaces.*** If we are unable to meet 1-1 nursing requirements for your student, you will be contacted by school administration.

As you are aware, it has been our plan to have 1-1 aides and nurses go into the homes and hospital wing ever since version 10 of the reopening plan. This was a request by the parents and we sought guidance from both the NJDOE and the Department of Health (DOH). The NJDOE has stipulated that school employees would only be able to follow their scope of practice as per the IEP. School personnel cannot be left alone in the home or hospital wing and parents or adult hospital staff would have to be in the same domicile or unit. Matheny's infection control committee with guidance previously supplied by the CDC and DOE, have stipulated that all school employees must wear facemasks and goggles when working within 6-feet of all students. Parents or other adults must wear facemasks when in the room with our staff even if everyone is fully vaccinated.

Based upon the hybrid schedule and the limitations of room availability, the time of physical availability of the students during the hybrid sessions was limited to 30 minutes for each therapy and virtual therapy of 20 minutes. The therapists have reached out to each and every parent and based upon guidance from the DOE and our reopening plan we shall be sending IEP addendums to all districts for the ESY. Those weeks that we will be virtual will include 50 minutes of virtual therapy, dependent upon the locus parentis (person operating in place of the custodial parent and/or guardian). Coupled



65 Highland Avenue
PO Box 339
Peapack, NJ 07977
908-234-0011
www.matheny.org

with the agreement to allow 1-1 aides and nurses to go into the homes and the hospital, this will enable us to offer 4 hours of schooling per day while we get approvals for our physical space and safely onboard and train new staff.

As explained in our last weekly parents' meeting, we will be sending out both our policy and a memorandum of agreement to the applicable parents and districts so they understand and agree to the parameters that the school employees must follow in the home and/or hospital setting before the assigned staff are sent to the location during virtual days. Also, we shall be setting up training for parents on Google Classrooms. Some of our teachers may still be sending out physical packets at the start of the ESY. However, as per guidance from infection control and the DOH we will try to phase out paper as much as possible.

Our hybrid schedule will be finalized and shared with all stakeholders. Once again, we thank everyone who has come together to work on our shared goal and who continue to offer their support. As we push forward on all fronts, we ask that if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions to email mathenyschool@matheny.org

On Behalf of the School Community,

Bill Kent,
President/CEO/Executive Director

Sean Murphy,
Vice President of Education/Principal/Director