



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

March 10, 2022

Dear Matheny School Community:

As you may be aware, we have been working with the NJ Department of Education (DOE) and the NJ Department of Health (DOH) in our shared goal of fully opening Matheny's day school. Due to the fact that Matheny is a comprehensive nonprofit organization with a fully accredited special hospital, the school is required to follow the guidance of the local DOH.

Our school services team is working together to review the guidance from the DOE, DOH, and CDC. The team includes a certificated school nurse, school physician, substitute school nurse, and infection control nurse. All elements of our reopening plan are developed in consultation with the local DOH. Under their direction, our school is allowed to operate under current regulations.

Guidance from the DOH states that we cannot have all students present on the same day so we are taking steps to move the school to hybrid instruction soon. When hybrid instruction begins, students will be six feet away from each other and their 1-1 staff will wear masks and goggles. Therapists will provide in-person therapies during in-person days and virtual therapies during virtual days. With regard to staffing, we have reached out to every district with a 1-1 nurse and are presently hiring more nurses and paraprofessionals. Finally, although masking is no longer required for students as of March 7th, all Matheny employees are required to wear masks.

In order to create an even safer physical environment, two new treatment rooms have been created and we have ordered fifteen air scrubbers to cover every instructional space, therapy space, treatment room, and student bathroom in the school.

We are glad that it seems like the endemic phase is upon us and we are closer to securing a date for the opening of the school under the hybrid model. Thank you for your patience and your participation in our monthly CST/Parents/Guardians/DCF meetings. Once our final hybrid plans are approved by both our board of education and the state, we will reach out to individual districts regarding transportation. In the meantime, please reach out to Sean Murphy or myself anytime.

Sincerely,

Bill Kent
Executive Director, the Matheny School