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Camden Schools Welcome Students Back to Classrooms

Camden Schools begins offering in-person instruction to students in a phased hybrid reopening

Camden, NJ – Camden City Schools today welcomed Pre-K to 2nd grade students as well as select high-need students with IEPs back into classrooms for in-person teaching and learning. Schools will re-open in a phased-in hybrid approach. Following today's return of Pre-K to 2nd graders, students in additional grade levels will be invited to return to their school buildings for hybrid, in-person classes at future dates to be determined. The next phase includes 3rd to 5th graders, which will be followed by the return of middle and high school students.

"We are excited to welcome students back into our buildings for in-person learning," said Camden City Schools Superintendent Katrina McCombs. "I want to thank our teachers and staff for their dedication serving our students despite incredibly difficult circumstances over the last year, and our families for their unwavering support and patience as we worked tirelessly to ensure our school buildings were safe for the return of our children."

Local schools have been closed for over a year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the New Jersey and Camden County Health Departments, Camden Schools have implemented a number of layered health and safety protocols for students and staff, including:

- the purchasing of additional PPE;
- required mask wearing in all school buildings;
- daily home screening;
- socially distant desks;
- sanitizing stations;

"Safely returning to in-person learning is critically important for our children and families," said Minister Wasim Muhammad, Camden City School District Advisory Board President. "Not only is it vital for our students' academic well-being, but also for their social-emotional well-being."

Under the hybrid model, students will be divided into two cohorts. One cohort will attend in-person from 9:15am – 1:15pm on Mondays and Tuesdays; the other cohort will attend in-person at the same time on Wednesdays and Thursdays. All students will attend by logging on synchronously at home on Fridays.

For more information and to learn more, parents and families can visit Camden City School District's <u>"Return</u> to School Plan" webpage.



