



August 5, 2020

ALH Students and Families,

Over the past two months, the ALH Leadership Team has been hard at work developing draft plans and considerations for a safe return to school based upon multiple scenarios, as we awaited guidance from the Governor, NYS Education Department (NYSED) and the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH).

The guidance from NYSDOH was issued on July 13<sup>th</sup>, with NYSED's guidance following on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Since the release of the guidance, ALH Leadership has been diligently poring over the volumes and working through the guidelines in order to develop the best plan for the 2020-2021 school year with the health and safety of our community at the forefront, and student success and achievement paramount. Although much of this guidance was anticipated and largely aligned with our work that was already underway, it was important for us to also gather stakeholder input and feedback on these plans. Thus, we held virtual forums for families, students, and community members on July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, and a staff forum on July 30<sup>th</sup>. In addition, we posted a survey prior to the forums in order to allow questions and concerns to be submitted in advance, and for those to be addressed during each forum. This has allowed us to share with students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members everything that we are doing to ensure the safest and most high-quality learning experience as we continue planning for reopening in September.

I want to thank all those who have responded to the survey and/or taken their time to attend our forums and provide feedback on the multitude of factors that must be taken into consideration in developing and implementing our plans. With the work that has been done, along with your input, we feel confident in our ability to provide the highest degree of safety and levels of engagement possible for a school. That being said, our plan development and monitoring will be ongoing and we are poised to respond to any changes or guidance, knowing that our policies, procedures, and academic schedule were all developed with flexibility in mind. In addition, our plan is grounded in the following Board of Regents guiding principles:

- The health, safety, and well-being of the children and adults in our schools is paramount.
- We will always keep the issue of educational equity at the forefront of our thinking and decision-making.
- We recognize that one size does not fit all.
- While it is important to respond to guidelines and provide policies, it is also important to develop creative solutions to unique challenges.
- We will encourage all stakeholders to continue to participate in discussions and provide input on the development of workable solutions, and we will succeed through our collective effort.
- We will proceed with the understanding that planning for school to reopen is not a one-time event. We will continuously monitor the situation and provide updated guidance, policies, and regulatory changes as the situation requires.

As you may be aware, all schools were required to submit to NYSED and NYSDOH a reopening plan by July 31<sup>st</sup>, which ALH has done. The current full reopening plan is also posted to our website at [www.albanyleadershiphigh.org](http://www.albanyleadershiphigh.org).

For your immediate information and consideration, below is the learning model that ALH is adopting for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. We ask that you please respond using the provided registration link to indicate your Group preference for your student. The selection that you choose will remain in effect through the first Period of Progress (PoP), except when electing to transition to Group Four (Fully Remote), which will be accommodated through a request submission process.

**Daily \*Synchronous Learning Model**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week	Group Four (Fully Remote)				
	Group Three				
1	Group One	Group Two	Group One**	Group One	Group Two
2	Group One	Group Two	Group Two**	Group One	Group Two

**Summary:**

Three in-person groups, one remote:

**Group One - General Education population, last name A-K**

**Group Two - General Education population, last name L-Z**

**Group Three - Special Populations (ENL, SWD) and students from families requesting daily in-school instruction (pending availability)**

**Group Four - Students from families requesting daily out-of-school instruction**

***\*Groups One and Two will rotate attendance on Wednesdays.***

**Group One and Group Two:** In-person learning on two consistent days per week; synchronous remote learning for out-of-school days

**Group Three:** In-person learning daily, working with assigned co-teachers

**Group Four:** Synchronous remote learning, or \*\*\*asynchronous remote learning for certain approved classes

\*Synchronous Learning - Synchronous learning refers to a learning in which a group of participants is engaged in learning at the same time, whether online or in-person.

\*\*\*Asynchronous Learning – Asynchronous learning is learning where the instructor, the learner, and other participants are not engaged in the learning process at the same time.

This learning model will allow us to utilize our existing facilities and classrooms with 50% or fewer students in attendance, which is aligned with our health and safety guidelines and procedures, as well as social distancing guidelines imposed by NYSED and NYSDOH. Please be reminded that this plan is still contingent upon Governor Cuomo's decision on the reopening of schools, which has been announced will occur by the end of this week.

Again, we need your assistance in completing the scheduling of our plan and assignment of students to each Group, so please review the plan and learning model options and complete the registration form which can be accessed using the provided link for each child in your household that will be attending Albany Leadership in 2020-2021. We ask that all registration forms be completed by Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. For families/students who select the hybrid model (Groups One and Two), assignments will be communicated the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>. Please note, if we do not receive a completed registration form indicating your preference, your student will be placed in the hybrid model (Group One or Two).

We will be following up with additional information in the next couple of weeks regarding your student's schedule and the opening of school, but please reach out with any questions or concerns you may have, either by contacting the school directly at (518) 694-5300, or by using the "Questions" submission form on our Reopening Plan webpage.

Once again, we know that these past several months have been extremely trying, and that the upcoming weeks will continue to be filled with challenges, but I want to thank you again for your ongoing and unwavering patience and support. The resilience of our students, staff, and community is unparalleled and know that you are appreciated.

Take care and we are looking forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cariña D. Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cariña D. Cook

Principal/CEO