



WILLIAM W. NILES MIDDLE SCHOOL 118

Academy of Excellence, Pace Academy, & Spectrum Academy

577 East 179th Street, Bronx, New York

(718) 584-2330

Website: www.MS118.info Email: 10X118@schools.nyc.gov

Gary Beidleman, Principal
Nathalie De La Mota, Assistant Principal, Academy of Excellence
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Courtney Ware, Assistant Principal, Spectrum Academy

Mr. Stephen Beard, Parent Association President
Ms. Kazi Nehar, Parent Association Secretary
Ms. Idalia Ballester, Parent Association Treasurer

February 5, 2021

Dear MS 118 families,

We have reached the midway point of the 2020-21 school year. The first semester has ended and we are now making preparations for our return to the building for live instruction. On Monday, February 7th, all student report cards will be accessible on families' New York City Schools Account (NYCSA). This report card will reflect student grades for the first semester (1st and 2nd marking periods). Any student receiving a grade of NX or 65 should meet with their teacher during office hours (2:00 - 2:20 pm, Monday - Friday) to make arrangements for attending our after school and Saturday programs.

The NYC DOE and MS 118 invites all students and their families to take the Fall 2020 School Experience Survey. The survey will capture anonymous feedback on your individual experience with remote and in-person learning during the 2020-21 school year to-date. This survey will provide our school with timely and actionable feedback to improve both remote and in-person learning experiences for all students. Your survey responses will also assist in planning for the upcoming spring semester.

The survey will ask you and your student about their experience with remote learning, communications, technology use, as well as health, safety, and instruction for those who attended school in-person at any point during this school year. Please use the following links to access the survey. The student survey link was sent to your child's Google Classroom.

Fall 2020 School Experience Student Survey

<https://surveys.panoramaed.com/nycdoe/Bronx/surveys/v2/99901500?language=en>

Fall 2020 School Experience Parent Survey

<https://surveys.panoramaed.com/nycdoe/Bronx%20Family/surveys/v2/99893357?language=en>

New York City Schools Account (NYCSA) Family Workshop

Monday, February 8th - 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, & 2:00 pm

Wednesday, February 10th - 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, & 2:00 pm

Use this link to register for the workshop: <https://forms.gle/GPfhBJvhMHJJWYoP7>

For those families who need support in setting up a NYCSA account, our MS 118 Family Support Team will host six workshops for all families. All workshops are facilitated in both English and Spanish. If you require translation services for any other language, please let us know and we will provide a translator.

NYCSA is a web-based application that lets you see your child's academic and biographic information on any computer, phone, or tablet. The application is translated into nine languages other than English. In the account, you can see a child's:

- Assessments (Test Scores)
- Attendance
- Enrollment History
- Grades
- Guardian Information
- Individualized Education Program (IEP) Information
- Grade Promotion Tracker
- Reading Level
- Schedule
- Transportation

- Student Documents (Report Card, Transcript, Summer School Letter)

Use this [link](#) to access directions for setting up an account. A member of our MS 118 Family Support Team is able to provide you with an Account Creation Code. Feel free to reach out via email or join them at the NYCSA Workshop on Monday or Wednesday.

Directions for setting up your NYCSA:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/acpolicy-nycsa-parent-flyer>

MS 118 Family Support Team Members:

Steven Cooper, Parent Coordinator, SCooper12@schools.nyc.gov

Shilynn Jackson, Family Worker, SJackson70@schools.nyc.gov

Annety Maria, Family Worker / Special Education & IEP students, AMaria3@schools.nyc.gov

Frank Rivera, STH / Bridging the Gap Coordinator, FRivera12@schools.nyc.gov

COVID Testing Consent Forms

Keeping school buildings open depends upon awareness of and immediate action on any COVID-19 concerns in our buildings. To do this, we need students and staff in our buildings to get tested! That is why there will be mandatory random weekly testing in all school buildings when they reopen. The NYCDOE's testing partners will come to MS 118 each week and test a randomly selected group of staff and students. Any person may volunteer to be tested. The number of people to be tested will depend on the size of the school, but will consist of 20% of a school's population each month, students and staff included.

In order for your child to return to in-person learning, you must submit the consent form for in-school COVID-19 testing before your child returns to their school building.

Submitting consent to have your child tested for COVID-19 in school is quick and easy. If you have already submitted consent, we encourage you to do so again to ensure your student has the latest form on file. There are two easy ways to submit:

- Fill out the form online using a [New York City Schools Account \(NYCSA\)](#)
 - If you already have a NYCSA account linked to your student(s): Log in, click your student's name, click "Manage Account," and then when a dropdown menu appears, click "Consent Forms." Read the page, and then choose the consent option at the end for your student.
 - If you do not already have a NYCSA account: You can create one right away! If you have an account creation code from your school, you can create a full account in approximately five minutes, and then provide consent as described above. If you do not have an account creation code from your school, you can still provide your consent right away by clicking "Manage Consent" under "COVID-19 Testing" and filling out your and your child's information to provide consent.
- Print and sign the form and bring it to your child's school on the first day they are back in the school building. A printable PDF file (available in ten languages) is available here: [Consent Forms](#).

Recruitment

We want prospective families to know that our school will provide all students with an opportunity to earn Living Environment, US History, and Algebra Regents high school credits. We offer computer science courses (including Coding), music and orchestra classes, dance, theatre, art, Mandarin, and Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) preparation.

We are a large school and our three small learning communities (Academies) benefit our students in a number of ways. The academy structure allows us to tailor instruction to meet the needs of individual students. We are able to get to know individual students and encourage them to meet higher expectations. Our small learning communities allow teachers to better know the academic strengths and weaknesses of their individual students and then personalize instruction to accelerate or reteach.

We have scheduled three virtual Open House sessions remaining:

- Saturday, February 6th at 12:00 pm,
- Wednesday, February 10th at 5:00 pm, and
- Thursday, February 11th at 10 am.

Families can register to attend an Open House session using this form:

<https://forms.gle/AmsmKVJhikkyTa3A6> .If you know families interested in joining our school community, please tell them about our upcoming events. Families may also email us, 10X118@schools.nyc.gov.

Please see the two documents attached below. The first document is guidance from NYCDOE on a safe return to the school building. At this point we have not received notice on a return date. We will send out a communication once that information has been shared with us. NYCDOE has partnered with organizations to offer workshops that will support you with many of the challenges presented by our current virtual learning environment. The second document list these workshops that are available to all families.

Thank you for choosing MS 118. Regardless of the challenges we may face as a community over the course of this school year, our staff is committed to ensuring that all students at MS 118 are engaged in meaningful and rigorous learning experiences. As always, If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 10X118@schools.nyc.gov.

Best,

Gary

Gary Beidleman, Principal

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GUIDANCE FOR A SAFE RETURN TO MS 118

I would like to thank all of MS 118 families for supporting the school's COVID-19 safety protocols. These protocols (temperature checks, staying home when students do not feel well, social distancing, and wearing masks) help us to maintain a safe environment for students and staff. When we return for in-school learning, it is important that we maintain these practices.

When Is It Safe to Return to the School Building?

If you or your child tested positive for COVID-19, you or your child can return to school only after:

- Isolating for 10 days **AND**
- Being fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication **AND**
- Overall symptoms are improving

If you or your child showed symptoms but received a negative COVID-19 test, you or your child can return to school only after:

- Being fever free 24 hours without the use of medication **AND**
- Overall symptoms are improving

If you or your child never received a COVID-19 test but showed symptoms, you or your child can return to school only after:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms started **AND**
- Being fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication **AND**
- Overall symptoms are improving

If you or your child is considered a close contact of a positive case, you or your child can return to school only after:

- Quarantining for 10-days since their last exposure to that case, regardless of COVID-19 test results
- Students in quarantine should participate in remote learning as possible.

For additional information on COVID-19, visit schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus or call 311.

NYCDOE Family Workshops

Promoting Positive Behaviors for Your Child – Please click [here](#) to learn more and register.

- *Managing Kids' Screen Time*; February 9th, 2021 | 9:00am – 10:00am
- *Motivating Your Child for Remote Learning – Part 1*; February 17th, 2021 | 4:00pm – 5:00pm
- *Motivating Your Child for Remote Learning – Part 2*; February 23rd, 2021 | 9:00am – 10:00am
- *Improving Your Relationship With Your Child*; March 3rd, 2021 | 4:00pm – 5:00pm
- *Parent Calming Techniques*; March 9th, 2021 | 9:00am – 10:00am

Supporting Learning at Home – Please click [here](#) to learn more and register.

- *Building and Supporting Executive Functioning Skills*; February 9th, 2021 | 4:00pm – 5:00pm
- *Building a Foundation for Reading at Home*; February 10th, 2021 | 5:00pm – 6:00pm

February and March 2021

February 8	February 9	February 10	February 11	February 12
Groups ABD Remote 8:30 - 1:59 PM	Groups ABD Remote 8:30 - 1:59 PM	Groups ABD Remote 8:30 - 1:59 PM	Groups ABD Remote 8:30 - 1:59 PM	Lunar New Year Schools Closed
*Our return to in-person learning is based on a directive from the Mayor's office and is dependent on current COVID-19 transmission rates in New York City.				Saturday, February 13th Parent Association Meeting 12:00 - 1:00 PM
February 15	February 16	February 17	February 18	February 19
February 12th - 19th Mid-Winter Recess Schools Closed Classes resume on February 22nd				
February 22	February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26
Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*
March 1	March 2	March 3	March 4	March 5
Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*
March 8	March 9	March 10	March 11	March 12
Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Groups ABD Remote 8:30 - 11:30 AM	Group A Group B School*
		March 10th School Leadership Team (SLT) Meeting 3:30 - 5:30 PM	March 11th Parent / Teacher Conference 12:20 - 2:20 PM 5:00 - 7:30 PM	Saturday, March 13th Parent Association Meeting 12:00-1:00 PM
March 15	March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19
Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*
March 22	March 23	March 24	March 25	March 26
Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*	Group A Group B School*
March 29	March 30	March 31	April 1	April 2
March 29th - April 2nd Spring Recess				

Schools Closed
Classes resume on April 5th