



New York City Department of Education
Stuyvesant High School

345 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10282

September 17, 2021

Dear Stuyvesant Community,

It has been a year and half since we have had our entire student body and staff in the building, and these past three days have quickly reminded us of the dynamic energy that has been sorely missed. Young people walking up and down the Stuyvesant hallways going to class, rekindling prior friendships and starting new ones, and finding their “spots” in school are helping us to normalize what we remember of the typical school day prior to the pandemic. It has been such a delight for me to witness--it has been what I (and everyone) have waited for since starting in August 2020. Simply, this first week in the 2021-2022 school year has been a positive step in our transition back to in-person learning.

It is important to note the concerted effort and fortitude of our staff in making all the necessary adjustments to prepare for this year. I am deeply appreciative of their commitment throughout this challenging time. I know they have been eager to see our young people and welcome them back to all of the classes, activities, and events that ignite the sparks in our students. Additionally, I want to thank all of our students and families for their flexibility and understanding as we again enter another school year with uncertainties. Your continued patience and partnership will allow us to focus on the possibilities to ensure this school year is successful.

As we enter this new year, we have made some key decisions based on what we learned from the previous year and the feedback we received from staff, students, and families. Our goal is to consider all of the critical elements of our school and incorporate a holistic strategy that connects our policies, partnerships, and programs to strengthen the experience of our students. I want to highlight four key updates for the new school year:

- **[PupilPath Gradebook](#)**

Last year we utilized both PupilPath and Jupiter Grades to showcase student academic progress in courses. However, this year Stuyvesant will only use PupilPath so students and parents/guardians do not have to navigate multiple gradebooks. This is a significant change particularly as we work to streamline our online platforms, to offer clarity in academic progress, and to cultivate stronger partnership between our faculty and students/families to support learning. In the coming days, all students/families will receive a PupilPath registration letter with directions to create their accounts and get started with our school wide gradebook. Please note, teachers and staff may also refer to PupilPath as iOClassroom/Skedula.

- **[Stuyvesant Key Academic Policies](#)**

School wide policies allow us to build more consistency in our overall academic program and fulfill our mission *to instill the intellectual, moral and humanistic values necessary for each child to achieve his/her maximum potential as a student and as a caring citizen of the world.* The school wide policies are intended to cultivate a structural consistency needed across a large school like Stuyvesant and to retain flexibility for both departments



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and teachers to incorporate nuances specific to each subject area.

The policies include:

- **SY21-22 Instructional Expectations** (expectations for Administrators, Teachers, Counselors, and Students/Families in support of student learning)
- **SY21-22 Grading Framework** (school wide structure to ensure that grading practices create greater fairness and consistency for our students)
- **SY21-22 Homework Policy & Spiral of Communication** (guidelines for assigning homework and resolving problems)
- **SY21-22 Testing Policy** (guidelines for testing and schedule for 3, 4, and 5-day weeks)
- **SY21-22 Academic Integrity Policy** (expectations for demonstrating academic integrity in our pursuit for excellence)

Students and families should read the policies thoroughly to understand the academic expectations and responsibilities. Finally, at the forefront of all of our policies is the understanding that our communications and interactions are conducted professionally, courteously, and in a timely manner to cultivate a successful partnership among all our community members.

- **Mental Health and Well-Being**

We are committed to providing a positive and enriching student experience. Therefore, we are partnering with three organizations to help us support our young people in their transition back to in-person learning at Stuyvesant.

- *Counseling in Schools (CIS)* - an additional clinician who will be available in the school 5 days a week and the support of a CIS Program Manager who will help the school plan for longer term changes to support the student experience.
- *Authentic Connections* - the administration of a survey on mental health and resilience to both students and faculty in early October. Authentic Connections specializes in working with high achieving schools.
- *My Robin* – build community through the use of inspirational videos and coaches that students can build into their daily lives.

In addition to the partnership with these organizations, we are moving forward with our extracurricular activities (and PSAL has already started) after school starting in October. An important part of the student experience at Stuyvesant are the numerous clubs, publications, and activities/events available outside of the classroom. Our annual Clubs & Pubs Fair hosted by our Student Union will take place next week in the building on Monday (9/21), Wednesday (9/23), and Thursday (9/24) from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. The Fair is a great way for students to see all the activities that complement and enrich the Stuyvesant experience.



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- **New Staff**

This year we have hired new staff across the school to support our goal of working more efficiently and effectively. We have hired teachers in the subject areas of mathematics, computer science, English, social studies, physics, tech/art, and foreign language (Latin), as well as a lab specialist. Additionally, we have hired two full-time special education teachers to support our students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and those with accommodations to ensure appropriate services are provided. Finally, we have added a new Assistant Principal, a school business manager, a social worker, a principal's secretary, community associates, and computer technicians to ensure we have the necessary personnel to operate successfully. An introduction to all of the new staff will be provided once all of our staffing is complete. Be on the lookout in the Weekly Update to learn more about our newest team members.

We are truly excited for this new school year especially after seeing our young people these past few days. As we move forward, I ask every member of our community to *be brave, be curious, and be kind*. We have already overcome several obstacles since March 2020 and every day we learn how to navigate new challenges. Therefore, we need everyone to contribute individually and collectively in our endeavor to keep our entire community healthy, productive, and high achieving. There are plenty of improvements we will continue to make; however, I am confident we are moving in the right direction in creating a school environment and culture that will bring out the best versions of ourselves at Stuyvesant.

Welcome back—let's go!

Sincerely,

Seung C. Yu
Principal - Cahn Fellow, 2021
Stuyvesant High School