

September 5, 2025

Dear PS 81 Families,

We are so proud of how well our students have transitioned into the 2025-2026 school year! Thank you for your support and patience during the first two days.

Starting Monday, 9/8 our doors will open at 7:50 am for arrival. It is expected that students arrive at school on time and are with their teacher at 8:00 am.

-Kindergarten, first and second grade students will enter through the door on 256th street. The door on 256th street will close promptly at 8:00am. Students who arrive after 8:00am will have to enter through the main door. This structure has to be in place to ensure safety for all students, as per DOE guidelines.

-Third, fourth and fifth grade students will continue to enter through the main door on Riverdale Ave.

Please contact the main office for routine concerns. For example, changes in dismissal patterns, student absences, student account questions, etc. Please inform the main office of dismissal changes by 1:30 pm. Our phone system has been restored, 718-796-8965.

Please see the attached document with the Department of Education's new cell phone policy. In order to comply with the New York State law, students will be required to turn off their cell phone or other internet-enabled devices and personally place it inside a pouch. Pouches will be stored inside a secure locker for the entirety of the school day. This policy is in place for the use of cell phones, personal tablets or laptops, smartwatches, wireless headphones and portable music and entertainment systems. At the end of the school day, students will retrieve their device(s) before leaving the school building.

Over the next two weeks, we will be conducting evacuation and lockdown drills. These drills will be reviewed with students in a sensitive way and practiced with each class before the drill. Please feel free to have a conversation with your child regarding the necessity of the drills.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you for your cooperation. Have a wonderful weekend!

Best,

Anne