



Inspired to Create

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Dear City Neighbors Hamilton Community,

As you may have read, Baltimore City Public Schools has decided to begin a multi-phased return-to-school process beginning mid-February.

- Traditional schools will be reopening grades K-2 on February 16th (Phase One).
- Traditional schools will open grades 3-5, 9 and 12 on March 1st (Phase Two).

Teachers in those grades in traditional schools will be required to return. Families would have the option of sending their children to school or continuing virtual learning. Charter schools have been allowed to make their own determinations about returning to in-person learning.

To be clear, City Neighbors Hamilton has opted out of Phase One and will not be opening for students in grades K-2 on February 16th. We were not afforded the opportunity to consult with our community in this decision. We simply could not agree to any return without the opportunity for a collaborative consideration with our community - including teachers, parents, and our Board - to decide a path forward.

While we will not open on February 16 for grades K-2, we must now decide whether we will open in some capacity as part of Phase 2, starting March 1. And, in the City Neighbors Hamilton way, we will need to make this decision as a community.

The decision to return to in-person learning is a complex one with many factors. We must prioritize the health and safety of our students, families and staff. We must rely on scientific and health data. We must consider the needs of our families, students, and staff. We must consider the academic growth of our students. We must, as a school, consider the capacity of our building and staff to meet the demands of in-person learning and dual in-person and virtual learning. There are no easy answers.

We need to hear from you to help make this decision. Here's where you can help.

- [Complete this survey](#) about your interest and intention for in-person learning, starting March 1 **by noon on Friday**.
- Please sign up for [one of these focus groups](#) for Friday. Click here to access the Sign-Up Genius (first come, first served).

While we gather information from you, we will also consult with our staff, examine our academic and participation data, and consult the current health and science data. Our Board of Directors, composed primarily of parents (and including two staff members) will ultimately make this decision about the path forward.

There is nothing more we would want than to be in our City Neighbors classrooms and schoolhouse together. Being together in community is the heart of City Neighbors. We know firsthand the difficulty of parenting and schooling from home. With that said, we must ensure the safety of our community and be thoughtful and intentional about when our return to in-person school happens.

We will share the CNH Board of Director's decision about a March 1 reopening on January 20. We must also inform the District of our decision about a March 1 reopening on January 20.

Thank you for the amazing community you are and have been. Please reach out, as always, if you have questions or would like to discuss further.

In partnership,
Shyla.