

Jonathan Swotinsky

Ethics & Computer Science

MEMO

To All Members of Our School Community:

As we prepare to welcome students and staff back into our building, it is crucial that we take steps protect the health and well being of every member of our school community. As you may have heard in recent news reports, one of the most important steps in slowing the spread of COVID-19 is vigilant contact tracing. As such, it is imperative that all individuals who enter the building install and use the COVID Alert NY app on their mobile device. The COVID Alert NY app is available on the Apple App Store and on Google Play.

We understand there may be some questions about how the COVID Alert NY app provides protection. As the COVID Alert NY app website points out, “You will get an alert if you were in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19. Knowing about a potential exposure allows you to self-quarantine immediately, get tested and reduce the potential exposure risk to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others.”

We also acknowledge that some members of our school community have raised privacy concerns about contact tracing apps. In response to these concerns, we have committed to selecting an app that protects the privacy of its users. The COVID Alert NY app webpage makes the following assurances: “You have full control to receive exposure notifications and can turn it off at any time. The app will never track your location, it uses Bluetooth to detect if two devices are near each other.

Your identity will never be revealed to anyone. [And,] your identity will remain anonymous, the app will never collect, transmit, or store any of your personal information.”

Even with these assurances, we understand and respect that some members of our school community may not feel comfortable downloading and using a tracing app. However, for the protection of all members of our school community, no individuals will be allowed to enter the building unless they have installed the COVID Alert NY app. For those members of our community who are unable to enter the building, we make the following commitment: Accommodations will be provided to engage remotely without compromising excellence. Students will be provided with a rigorous yet supportive remote education. Students will also have access to a variety of remote clubs and activities. Teachers will be provided with the resources they need to provide high quality remote instruction. And, the variety of events through which families have the opportunity to connect will continue taking place remotely. Most important, regardless of whether you engage on-site or remotely, you will continue to be a valued member of our school community. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email me directly. You can also learn more about the COVID Alert NY app at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny>

Thank you for your understanding and for helping us keep our school community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Your School Principal