Pres Message – March 2021  
Open Our Schools!

Why are our public schools still closed when nearly everyone universally wants them open? In an ongoing maddening game of open vs. closed, Mayor de Blasio recently announced the reopening of middle schools, which turns out to be only 30% of middle school students allowed back in the classroom at least part-time. But what about high schools and elementary schools? What about after-school programs, clubs, sports, orchestra, and activities so necessary to children’s development and mental health? What about opening all NYC public schools for full-time in-person learning?

Catholic and private schools are successfully and safely open, and teachers are back to work. The [CDC never recommended schools close](https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/cdc-director-schools-are-one-of-the-safest-places-for-kids-during-pandemic/65-b1cc9e39-d05f-4d56-8ac6-bab061228d59), and CDC Director Robert Redfield said that schools are 'one of the safest places' for kids during the pandemic.

Our public school teachers are not a monolithic group.