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Schools Open At Last

New commutes for many students

By Nick Chiles
STAFF WRITER

His head still full of questions, Stuyvesant High School junior Matthew Welsh at least was clear on his new commute yesterday after conducting a dry run of the trip from his home in Greenwich Village to his temporary new school in Brooklyn.

The trip, by way of the Q train, was a little more than 30 minutes. But as Welsh stared up at the imposing Brooklyn Technical High School building — the first time he had ever seen it — he still wondered: If classes don't end until 6:11 p.m., *when will I do* homework? Will I get new teachers? What about my after-school SAT prep class?

Welsh will get his questions answered today as he and his 3,000 Stuyvesant classmates begin attending classes at Brooklyn Tech in Fort Greene. Stuyvesant is one of eight schools in the city that were relocated because their buildings are currently unusable due to their proximity to the World Trade Center site.

Besides Stuyvesant, other high schools affected include the High School for Leadership and Public Service, which has been moved to Fashion Industries High School at 225 W. 24th St., and the High School of Economics and Finance, which has moved to Norman Thomas High School at 111 E. 33rd St.

Though the 4,700-student Brooklyn Tech is in a mammoth old structure near Downtown Brooklyn, it was not built to accommodate 7,700 teenagers. To manage the crowd, the schools will use the building in split shifts, with Brooklyn Tech students attending from 7:15 a.m. to 1:47 p.m. and Stuyvesant students from 11 a.m. to 6:11 p.m. During the three hours when they are sharing the building, Stuyvesant will be forced to conduct as many as 40 simultaneous classes in the auditorium — a prospect that worries many students and parents.

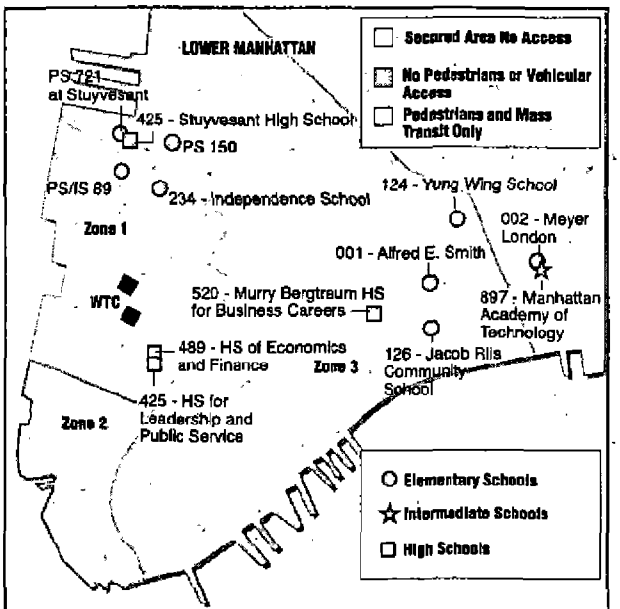
In fact, hundreds of Stuyvesant parents have sent e-mails to Schools Chancellor Harold Levy, complaining that the target date of Nov. 1 for a return to Stuyvesant's building was too long. Levy said on Monday that it would take at least a month before Stuyvesant, which is currently being used as a supply depot for the World Trade Center operation, could be cleaned up and ready for students.

All eight of the merged schools will be grappling with endless logistical questions, but the questions probably won't get any stickier than at Brooklyn Tech, long a major rival of Stuyvesant's.

When eighth-graders across the city take the high-stakes entrance exam for the three academically challenging science schools, Stuyvesant has the highest cutoff score, followed by Bronx Science and then Brooklyn Tech. They are three of the most impressive high schools in the country, but it's not unusual for Stuyvesant students to believe that the students at the other two schools would rather be attending Stuyvesant — a perception that can foster some ill will between the three student bodies.

"There's been some concern [among Stuyvesant students] about how we might be treated," Welsh said. "They say they're going to welcome us."

On a Web site run by Stuyvesant students, the following message was posted yesterday by Jukay Hsu, Stuyvesant's student union president: "This is an opportunity to develop a relationship and to break the negative stereotype of the arrogant, elitist Stuyvesant student that many students outside of Stuy hold."



School Changes

Special arrangements have been made for eight schools near the World Trade Center site that have been closed following the terror attacks. While faculty and administrators have been back on duty since Monday, students will be returning today to their newly assigned locations. Here are the reassignments.

- Students from PS 89 should report to PS 3 in Manhattan located at 490 Hudson St. today at the regular school start time (8:40 a.m.)
- Students from IS 89 should report to IS 70 at 333 W. 17th St. at the regular school start time (8:40 a.m.)
- Students from PS 150 should report to PS 3 at 490 Hudson St. at the regular school start time (8:40 a.m.)
- Students from PS 234 should report to PS 41 at 116 W. 11th St. at the regular school start time (8:40 a.m.)
- Students from the High School for Leadership and Public Service should report to Fashion Industries High School at 225 W. 24th St. at 10:30am.
- Students from Stuyvesant High School should report to Brooklyn Technical High School at 29 Fort Green Place in Brooklyn at 11 a.m.
- Students from the High School of Economics and Finance should report to Norman Thomas High School at 111 E. 33rd St. at 1 p.m.
- Students from PS 721 at Stuyvesant should report to PS 79 located at 55 E. 120th St. at 8:30 a.m. All students will be transported on their regular school bus service at the regular times and locations.
- Murry Bergtraum High School will reopen at the regular time.

Yellow bus service will run as normal, but students should expect some delays due to heavy traffic.

For additional information, parents can either call the parent hotline at 718-392-8855 or check the Board of Education's Web site, http://www.nycenet.edu/ for updates on the status of schools.

SOURCE: New York City Board of Education

Newsday / Justin Gilbert

Central Park Event Nixed

Smaller prayer service Sunday

By Pete Bowles and Margaret Ramirez
STAFF WRITERS

Saying it was too soon for a memorial service, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani announced yesterday that a prayer service will be conducted Sunday at Yankee Stadium for the thousands killed in last week's attack on the World Trade Center.

The 3 p.m. service, "mostly for families and those directly affected by the tragedy," he said, will also be shown over jumbo television screens at the new KeySpan Park in Coney Island, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones.

City officials will devise a ticket system for the event as overwhelming numbers of requests are expected. More details were to be announced today.

"We all thought it was important to have a service of prayer, but it was too early to have a memorial service, and too early in the recovery and relief effort, and too early in the grieving process," Giuliani said.

A memorial service will be planned for a future date, Giuliani said.

The prayer service was arranged after a memorial service planned for this Sunday in Central Park was called off. A million people were expected to attend the event.

"Given the enormous strain on the police, the National Guard and other officials in the city, the idea of having a million people, although beautiful, would not be a good idea," Giuliani said.

For anyone looking to thank those involved in the rescue effort, the New York City Post Office and the Federal Emergency Management Agency yesterday designated a post office box for letters of recognition. Letters should be sent to Search and Rescue, P.O. Box 2551, New York, NY 10166.

The letters will be circulated among firefighters, police officers and other rescue workers and will be posted in the living quarters of the FEMA task force members, authorities said.

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