

August 31, 2020

Dear HHS Students and Parents:

On the original calendar for the 2020-2021 school year, today was slated to be the first day of classes. While I hope you're all enjoying these extra few days of summer, I know we're all eager to get back to school. With that in mind, I'm happy to report several updates:

- **Student cohorts have been established** at Hingham High School. Assignments have been made according to **alphabetical order**: Cohort A will include all students from the start of the alphabet through Lee, and Cohort B will include all students from Leibovici through Z. Unfortunately, due to the complexities of the high school schedule, **we cannot accommodate requests to switch from one cohort to another**.
- **Student schedules are nearly complete and will be released later this week**. With more than 1300 students, each of whom requires a unique six-period schedule, the task of building the HHS schedule is always complex, even during a normal year. Needless to say, the current circumstances (e.g., space restrictions related to safety protocols, etc.) have posed exceptional challenges. Thus, we greatly appreciate your patience in awaiting the release of the schedule. Moreover, I hope you'll understand that **schedule changes will be extremely difficult and often impossible this year**.
- Although HHS normally requires students to maintain at least 30 credits in their schedules, we have reduced the **minimum to 25 credits** this year.
- All **physical education and music classes, as well as AP science labs, will be held remotely**, at least for now.
- An optional **information night for HHS parents** will be held via Zoom next Tuesday, September 8th, at 7 PM. School administrators will be on hand to summarize reopening plans and answer questions. A link will be forthcoming.
- Ninth graders and transfer students should save the date for **New Student Orientation on Monday, September 14th**. The event is likely to include several "virtual forums" held via Zoom during the morning and an opportunity to visit the building for a brief self-guided tour in the afternoon. Full details will follow.
- All **HHS classrooms have been reconfigured** to accommodate current safety protocols. Each room has its own hand sanitizing station and has been stocked with essential supplies, including extra disposable masks, sanitizing spray, and paper towels. All extra furniture has been moved into storage in order to leave the required distance between all desks.
- All hallways have been marked to indicate a traffic flow that will promote safety and social distance. In most parts of the building, traffic will move entirely in one direction.
- In keeping with a **"Bring Your Own Device"** policy, all HHS students should be prepared to bring a fully-charged device (e.g., laptop, Chromebook, tablet, etc.) to school every day. Ninth graders may keep their school-issued Chromebooks through the end of the current school year; however, if any ninth-graders prefer to return those Chromebooks, they may do so at the HHS main office.

The 2020-2021 school year is going to look and feel different from what we've known in the past, but HHS remains wholly committed to delivering rich, memorable, fun and productive learning experiences for all of our students. We won't settle for anything less, and we can't wait to get started.

Sincerely,

Rick Swanson
Principal
Hingham High School