

April 3, 2021

Dear HHS Students and Parents/Guardians:

As HHS prepares to take another big step forward by welcoming more students back to school on Monday, please review the following points:

- **Students may enter the building at 7:45 AM** on Monday, as has been the case all year.
- We're expecting unusually heavy traffic around the high school on Monday morning, so you should plan accordingly. **Please consider carpooling, walking or biking** to school if possible. For those who must be dropped off by car, choosing an **alternative dropoff spot** (other than the school's main entrance) would also help to ease congestion.
- Beginning on Monday, April 5th, remote access to HHS classes will be limited to students who 1) have elected to remain fully remote for the remainder of the year and/or 2) must do so for a COVID-related reason (e.g., a positive test, quarantine due to close contact, COVID-like symptoms, etc.). Any cases of the latter should be reported to the school nurse as soon as possible.
- Parents: If you need to drop off an item for your child at school during the school day, the practice used all year will continue. Items can be left on the cart outside the front door at the Union Street entrance.
- **Pooled testing** will continue every Tuesday and Thursday (7:45 AM - 12:15 PM) for those who have registered to participate. If you haven't signed up yet but would like to do so, please click [this link](#) and complete the form. We hope to boost participation in this program.
- As noted in a previous message, all student desks have been arranged at three (not six) feet of social distance in order to boost classroom capacity. As a result, for the first time this year, students will be considered "**close contacts**" of classmates who sit beside them and will therefore be subject to quarantine in cases where a "close contact" has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Although the [MA Travel Advisory](#) no longer carries the weight of a Travel *Order*, Hingham Public School still expects all families to honor its terms. As we contend with the real threat of another COVID surge, any failure to comply with the Advisory could damage our efforts to keep schools open.
- Though many students will eagerly embrace this next phase of our reopening, it will no doubt generate some stress and anxiety at the same time. Be assured that you can reach out to teachers, counselors and administrators for **social-emotional support** and/or help in adjusting to the new schedule. We will continue to work together as a community to solve problems and support one another.

The following points, included in a separate message last Wednesday, also deserve repetition:

- **All students whose families requested in-person learning on the recent survey will be expected to attend school five days per week beginning on Monday, April 5th.**
- The **partial-day schedule** that has been in place all year **will continue through Friday, April 16th**. Thus, for the next two weeks, most students will be dismissed at 12:05 PM. Remote afternoon classes (G & H Blocks) will continue to meet remotely until April vacation; however, other previously-remote classes (i.e., PE and music classes that meet during A, C, D and F Blocks) will begin meeting in-person on Monday, April 5th.
- With the elimination of "Remote Wednesdays" from the schedule, **HHS will transition to a two-day rotation** (Day 1: A, B, C & H Blocks; Day 2: D, E, F & G Blocks) that will continue through April vacation.
- Because slightly more than 12 percent of HHS students have opted to continue in all-remote learning through the end of the year, we are cautiously optimistic that we will not need to send students to "overflow" spaces during the school day. At this time, we expect that students in all sections will fit into regular classrooms.
- Until April vacation, any student who has an unscheduled block during the school day may leave the building during that block (as has been the case all year) or report to the cafeteria for a supervised study hall.
- In order to accommodate more students in our classrooms, **social distancing requirements will decrease from six feet to three feet** on Monday, April 5th. All classrooms have been reconfigured over the past few days to make room for the additional desks.
- Except for the adjustment to social distancing expectations in classrooms, **all other safety protocols remain in effect**. Most importantly, everybody must wear a mask at all times, except when outdoors during mask breaks, and one-way traffic patterns will continue in school corridors. We must remain vigilant. **We cannot eliminate risk entirely, but we can reduce it** substantially through careful adherence to safety protocols.
- Work continues on the longer schedule that will go into effect on April 26th. Details of that schedule will be communicated when they become available.

Enjoy the rest of the weekend, everybody. We look forward to seeing many of you at school on Monday!

Sincerely,

Rick Swanson
Principal Hingham High School