

March 31, 2021

Dear HHS Students and Parents/Guardians:

We're on the cusp of a watershed moment here at Hingham High School, as **tomorrow** (Thursday, April 1st) **marks the final day of hybrid learning**. If all goes according to plan, HHS students will never again have to be identified as belonging to Cohort A or Cohort B. On the whole, thanks to the tremendous efforts of our faculty and staff, the hybrid system has proven equal to the challenging circumstances that led to its creation. However, we won't be sorry to see it go, since its elimination signals the return of so many students to in-person learning.

You can expect a follow-up message with additional details before Monday, but here are some essential points that warrant emphasis today:

- **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** in order to maintain safety.
- **Pooled testing will continue** every Tuesday and Thursday (7:45 AM - 12:15 PM) in Room 298 for all students who have registered to participate.
- 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.

Over the past few months, more than a third of our students have been engaged in all-remote learning. In just a few days, those numbers will fall dramatically, as more than 87 percent of our students return for in-person learning five days per week. We can't wait to welcome them back!

Sincerely,

Rick Swanson
Principal
Hingham High School