



HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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hinghamschools.com

March 26, 2020

Dear Hingham Schools Community,

The district's administrative team convened today to begin the process of formalizing our robust *Remote Learning Plan*. More details about our plan is forthcoming and will be distributed to our students and community next week. We have a few new items of interest, as well as a few reminders, to let you know about this evening. As with previous communications, we will address each item individually.

Student Technology

Given the district's transition to the Remote Learning Plan effective Monday, April 6, 2020, we are once again offering students in need the opportunity to borrow district owned technology for the duration of the closure. Our goal is to provide any household that does not have access to this technology with a device by April 3, 2020. Please understand that we do not have enough devices to supply every student. If your student needs a device, please see the website below:

<https://sites.google.com/hinghamschools.org/techloaners>

Should there be any questions or concerns about student access of district technology, please contact Joe Andrews, Technology Manager, at jandrews@hinghamschools.org.

Online Student Safety

With the increased distribution of technology to our students and their increased use of technology, we wanted to provide some resources you may find helpful. The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office has adopted the "STOP, BLOCK, and TALK" program, designed to provide you and your student language to understand key concepts associated with cybersafety. Attached to this communication you will find a program sheet for children, one for teens, one for parents, as well as a list of commonly used social media apps for parents and contains some helpful guidelines when considering student access to social media. These resources have also been posted to our COVID-19 resource webpage. We hope you find them useful.

Remote Learning Plan - Managing Expectations (Reminder)

While a digital environment cannot fully recreate the important human contact of a traditional classroom, we are working to provide opportunities for authentic learning and connection, within the parameters of federal and state guidelines. It is important for families to understand that the typical school day cannot be perfectly replicated through remote learning, and in our efforts to shift to on-line delivery of instruction, we need to be sensitive to the needs of all students, families, and staff. We understand the hardships this remote learning environment places on families, and we recognize that partnering with parents and guardians will be more vital than ever. The district is committed to working in tandem with parents/guardians and to provide the necessary resources to help facilitate learning in the home environment.

Academic Engagement Activities (Week Three)

As the district prepares for our transition to remote learning on April 6th, next week faculty across the district will again distribute new academic engagement activities for the week of March 30th. We ask your continued cooperation in contacting your teacher/s if you have not yet received these activities.

Counseling Resources (REMINDER)

Our Counseling Department has developed a number of resources for you as we head into the second week of the COVID-19 school closure. These resources were attached to that communication and have been posted to our website COVID-19 page:

<https://hinghamschools.com/blog/2020/03/17/covid-19-resources-and-communication/>

Should you have any questions about the materials, please contact Heather Rodriguez, Director of School Counseling, or your student's counselor.

Harbor Media Resources (REMINDER)

Harbor Media has developed some online resources for families and students during the school closure. If you'd like to access these resources they can be found at:

<https://www.harbormedia.org/keep-learning.html>.

United Way of Plymouth County (REMINDER)

We wanted to let you know that the *Family Center* in Brockton, operated by the United Way of Plymouth County, is open and can be reached at 508-857-0272 with a modified schedule: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Their Community Resource Specialists can help connect families to resources for basic needs and are available to support families and students in a variety of ways; please reach out to them directly if they can be of support.

COVID 19 Resources Webpage (REMINDER)

Our COVID-19 resource webpage is up and running and can be accessed by navigating to <https://hinghamschools.com> and clicking the “COVID-10 Resources and Communication” link under “District News” (top right of screen). If you have any feedback about the page or suggestions for items to include on it, please contact Dr. James M. LaBillois, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, at jlabillois@hinghamschools.org.

Food Service Meals During School Closure (REMINDER)

“Grab and Go” lunches are available for any Hingham student in need. Meals may be picked-up daily (Monday - Friday) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at the picnic tables outside of the Hingham High School Cafeteria. (Please use the 41 Pleasant Street entrance and stay to the right and follow the driveway until you see the cafeteria on your left.) When you arrive, a school nutrition employee will bring the meal(s) out to your car. Please note that meals must be consumed off-site. If anyone is unable to physically pick-up a meal, please email Kim Smyth, Director of Food Service, at ksmyth@hinghamschools.org who will arrange a drop-off to your home.

General Considerations (REMINDER)

Please remember this statewide closure is designed to mitigate the spread of COVID 19. We want to remind everyone in our community to practice social distancing, stay at least 6 feet away from others, and avoid gatherings of more than 10 people. Social gatherings and playdates are also discouraged. A reminder that all school facilities including playgrounds are closed until further notice. And, as you have been hearing from multiple sources, handwashing for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water is another great defense to keep you and your family healthy.

District Points of Contact (REMINDER)

In order to streamline the district’s communications with the community we have designed district points of contact to address any concerns or questions that may be raised. Please note the addition of points of contact for all departments in the district:

Programmatic Area	Point of Contact & Email
General District Operations	Dr. Paul Austin, Superintendent paustin@hinghamschools.org
District’s Academic Engagement Plan	Dr. James M. LaBillois, Assistant Superintendent jlabillois@hinghamschools.org
Special Education & Related Services	Dr. Suzanne Vinnes, Director of Student Services svinnes@hinghamschools.org
Building Operations, Physical Plant,	John Ferris, Director of Business & Support

Custodial & Support Services	Services jferris@hinghamschools.org
Preschool	Becky Case, Assistant Principal (East) bcase@hinghamschools.org
Kindergarten	Lori Jacobs, Assistant Principal (South) ljacobs@hinghamschools.org
Grade 1	Charleen Fabrizio, Assistant Principal (PRS) cfabrizio@hinghamschools.org
Grade 2	Jen Newell, Assistant Principal (Foster) jnewell@hinghamschools.org
Grade 3	Melissa Smith, Principal (PRS) msmith@hinghamschools.org
Grade 4	Dr. Beth Wilcox, Principal (Foster) ewilcox@hinghamschools.org
Grade 5	Mary Eastwood meastwood@hinghamschools.org
6-12 English Language Arts	Mary Andrews, Director of English mandrews@hinghamschools.org
6-12 Mathematics	Dave Jewett, Director of Mathematics djewett@hinghschools.org
6-12 Science	Katie Roberts, Director of Science kroberts@hinghamschools.org
6-12 Social Studies	Andy Hoey, Director of Social Studies ahoey@hinghamschools.org
6-12 World Languages	Erica Pollard, Director of World Languages epollard@hinghamschools.org
K-12 Counseling & Section 504	Heather Rodriguez, Director of Counseling hrodriguez@hinghamschools.org
Athletics	Jim Quatromoni, Director of Athletics jquatromoni@hinghamschools.org
Nutritional Support/Lunch	Kim Smyth, Director of Food Service ksmyth@hinghamschools.org
K-12 Physical Education	Meghan Melanson, P.E. Resource Teacher mmelanson@hinghamschools.org

6-12 Family & Consumer Science	Lauren Beischel, F&CS Resource Teacher lbeischel@hinghamschools.org
K-12 Art	Rose Papuga, Art Resource Teacher rpapuga@hinghamschools.org
K-5 Music	Joann Bellis, K-5 Music Resource Teacher jbellis@hinghamschools.org
6-12 Music	Phaedre Sassano, 6-12 Music Resource Teacher psassano@hinghamschools.org
K-12 Health	Karen Beatty, Health Resource Teacher kbeatty@hinghamschools.org
K-12 Library & Media	Sara Daly, Library & Media Resource Teacher sdaly@hinghamschools.org
6-12 Industrial Technology	Dr. Paul Pawlowski, IT Resource Teacher ppawlowski@hinghamschools.org
Nursing & Medical Services	Debbie Whiting, Nurse Resource Teacher dwhiting@hinghamschools.org

Should you have any feedback on the district's communications plan or the content of the communications, please let any member of our leadership team know. Should there be any additional questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate point of contact.

Sincerely,

Hingham Public Schools Leadership Team