



HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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August 7, 2020

Dear HPS Community,

As you may be aware, last evening the Hingham School Committee unanimously approved a phased-in hybrid plan, combining in-person and remote learning, for our return to school in the fall. We are grateful to the members of the School Committee for their support and to all in the community who have dedicated their time and talents to our reopening efforts.

The efforts of school reopening will now shift to solidifying all of the essential details that will ensure the safe reopening of schools and support the academic and social emotional growth of our students. I will stress again that our community must unite around the shared mission of ensuring that every HPS student safely achieves a full year of academic and personal growth in the year 2020-2021, while protecting the health and safety of students and educators.

Earlier today, you should have received an e-mail from the building principal of your child's school along with the second in our series of family surveys. The data from this new survey will be used to inform construction of hybrid cohorts and bus routes, as well as distribution of devices. We thank you in advance for your timely completion of this forthcoming survey, which will help us make rapid progress toward our school reopening plans.

As I stated in the community forums on Wednesday, as well as during the School Committee meeting last evening, please note that our reopening plan is still very much a work in progress as we monitor local health metrics, DESE guidance, impact bargaining, and other factors. We will continue to refine our plan and we know that our district and families must be prepared to pivot as external factors change.

We do anticipate a significant amount of communications in the coming weeks. Later this month, the district will launch a new website, which will allow us a more effective online presence. In the meantime, all district-level communications with regard to school reopening will be housed on the following [temporary website](#). As we approach the start of the school year, we anticipate that much of the communication regarding fall plans will increasingly come from building principals, who will provide detailed information tailored to your child's specific school and grade level.

The Hingham School Committee Community Outreach Committee has planned an additional Superintendent Coffee Talk for this Thursday, August 13th at 9AM. Click [here](#) for Zoom link (Meeting ID: 820 8924 2487). We look forward to further discussing community questions and suggestions about school reopening.

We appreciate your continued patience, grace, and collaboration as we continue to progress toward a successful reopening of schools.

Respectfully,

Paul Austin, Ph.D.

