



## HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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August 28, 2020

Dear HPS Community,

Given the buzz of activity across our district this week, my weekly update is rather lengthy with much information to share. Many more communications will be issued from the district and also from building principals throughout the next week or two.

The highlight of our week was the welcoming of new educators on Monday and welcoming back of all educators and staff on Wednesday and Thursday. During my annual convocation speech, I reflected how much the past five months have demonstrated the vital role of educators in the fabric of our society, making lasting impact in children's lives and their futures. The pandemic has also highlighted the importance of each and every discipline in education, each of which help people in different ways to persevere through hardship and challenges and thrive in the midst of adversity. No matter the configuration of our staff, physical space, or virtual space this year, we will continue to help our students learn, grow and even thrive in the midst of the challenges we face.

Following is an update of progress with regard to school reopening:

### **K-5 Cohorts/Class Assignments:**

All families of K-5 students should have received an e-mail yesterday (Thursday 8/27) alerting parents and caregivers of elementary cohort assignments. Any K-5 family not informed of elementary cohorts should reach out to their respective elementary building principal.

### **K-5 Family Information Nights:**

This coming week, elementary principals will be hosting K-5 Family Information Nights for parents and caregivers to discuss school reopening plans. Dates and times for each event are listed below. Zoom links will be provided by building principals:

Foster School Family Info Night: Wednesday, September 2 · 4:30 – 6:30pm

East School Family Info Night: Wednesday, September 2 · 6:30 – 8:30pm

PRS Family Information Night: Thursday, September 3 · 5:00 – 6:00pm

South Family Information Night: Thursday, September 3 · 7:00 – 8:00pm

### **HMS/HHS Cohorts and Schedules**

HMS and HHS principals will share information on secondary cohorts and schedules during the week of August 31st. Information on HMS and HHS Family Information Nights will follow.

### **COVID Response Team**

We have established a COVID Response Team (CRT) that will allow us to collaborate with the Town to monitor health metrics, make recommendations regarding learning plan phase changes, and to rapidly respond to any cases of COVID in our school community. Our team consists of myself, each of the school principals, School Nurse Deb Whiting, HEA President June Gustafson, Hingham's Executive Health Officer Susan Sarni, and Hingham School Physician Dr. John Stanley. The team will meet weekly and we will keep you updated, as appropriate. Currently, Hingham is in the "Green" and our health metrics continue to look very good. There were 6 positive cases reported in Hingham over the past 14 days, but our positive testing results are only 0.68%! I want to thank everyone for taking the precautions necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Keep up the good work!

### **PPE:**

This week, I received several clarifying questions from the community regarding the availability of PPE supplies in our district. At the end of this message is a partial list of PPE that is currently on-site for use by educators, staff, and students. Please note that all educators have a ready supply of disposable surgical masks (we have over 250,000 surgical masks currently in stock!). Other PPE such as gowns, gloves, and more specialized face coverings (e.g.--N95 masks, "see through" face masks, and face shields) will also be available for educators who require or request them. Disposable masks will also be available to those students who may require them. All supplies will be replenished as needed.

### **Technology Updates/Chromebook Requests**

As noted in previous communications, each student will need access to a device to participate in remote learning on the days that they are off-site. Following are updates for each grade level:

#### **PreK-1:**

All students in Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 will be issued a district issued iPad. Communications regarding iPad distribution will be forthcoming.

#### **Grades 2-5:**

Students in Grades 2-5 may use any web-enabled device such as a laptop or chromebook for remote learning. HPS will provide a district issued device to any student in need, but does not have sufficient chromebooks at this time to provide chromebooks to all students in Grades 2-5. If your child does not have access to a device, please request a district-issued device by clicking on the attached [link](#).

**HMS:**

All students in Grade 6 and any students new to HMS will receive a district issued chromebook as part of the HMS 1-to-1 program. Please note that rising Grade 7-8 students should already have access to a chromebook as the district did not collect their devices at the end of the past school year. Students new to the district and enrolled at HMS should email the tech department directly at [techsupport@hinghamschools.org](mailto:techsupport@hinghamschools.org) to coordinate collection of a device.

**HHS:**

All HHS students will require a device both for in-school learning and for remote learning. Rising Grade 9 students should already have access to a chromebook retained from HMS. We ask that students in Grades 10-12 who have their own chromebook or laptop to bring their own device. We do not have sufficient chromebooks at this time to provide chromebooks to all 10-12 students, but will prioritize those students in need. If your child does not have access to a device, please request a district-issued device by clicking on the attached [link](#).

Until next time,

Paul Austin, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

**Partial list of PPE (as of 8/28/20):**

- >250,000 disposable surgical masks
- >2,000 surgical gowns
- >1,700 boxes of gloves in various sizes
- 500 "see through" fabric face masks
- 500 safety face shields
- 400 safety goggles
- 6 Non Contact Thermometers
- 11 Counter Shields
- 325 Cases of Sanitation wipes
- 2,200 Arrow decals for the High School and Middle School
- 60 Social Distancing Decals
- 22 germ barrier stands for school offices
- 200 16oz Pump Hand Sanitizer
- 200 germ barriers
- 400 sanitizer dispensers and 120 gallons of hand sanitizer