



HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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September 11, 2020

Dear HPS Community,

On this most somber of days, we pause to reflect on the lives lost on 9/11 nineteen years ago today. In that moment in history, our nation united in support of each other and to grieve the many lives lost to this unthinkable event. Much like that historic moment, today's global pandemic is a call to unite once again with a common purpose to overcome this terrible disease and to rise stronger and better than ever.

This week featured another full line-up of professional development for our educators and staff. Highlights of the week included live workshops on social-emotional learning and supports, trauma informed instruction, and technology workshops led by presenters from Ed Tech, Microsoft and Stirling. Additionally, there were more than twenty five presentations by HPS staff with expertise on various digital tools including Google Classroom, Zoom, Google Meet, Assistive Technology, PearDeck, See Saw, FlipGrid, Ed Puzzle, Edulastic, and Go Formative, just to name a few. These tools, in the hands of our talented educators, will expand our collective repertoire for engaging students both when they are on site and off site. Most importantly, our teachers have had valuable curriculum time to work in grade level and subject specific teams to co-plan engaging lessons and ensure clear articulation of our curriculum across the district. Our administrators were also busy this week planning for the return of students. Parents and guardians will be receiving regular updates from your school/teacher with details about what to expect next week. Schedules are taking shape and we are very excited to get the year started.

This coming week, our full attention will be focused on welcoming our students as they begin remote learning on September 16th.

Following are highlights with regard to school reopening:

Back to School Basics 2020-2021:

Attached please find a new resource for students and families, [Back to School Basics 2020-2021](#), produced by members of RRAC. This series of infographics provides a summary of the safety measures and procedures in place for the 2020-2021 school year. Of particular importance is the COVID-19 checklist that families must use each morning to determine whether their child is in good health and therefore may attend school. Please note that it is imperative that if students do not meet the checklist criteria that those students remain home. We thank you for your ongoing vigilance and support in keeping our students and staff safe and healthy.

K-5 Updates:

By now you have probably received, or will receive very soon, communications from your school or teacher with details about the first days of school next week, including class assignments. Our teachers have been working hard to prepare for the return of their students and are very eager to start instruction next week.

HMS Updates:

This past week, HMS families had the opportunity to participate in a Zoom information night to hear updates from Principal Smith. This week more details will be forthcoming with regard to HMS schedules and orientation.

HHS Updates:

This past week, HHS families had the opportunity to participate in a Zoom information night to hear updates from Principal Swanson. All HHS students have received information about their class schedules and this week we look forward to welcoming our freshmen for orientation on Monday, September 14th. Details regarding freshman orientation have been shared by HHS administration.

COVID Response Team

This week, our COVID response team met to discuss health metrics, plan for future learning plan phase changes, and responses to any cases of COVID. Currently, Hingham is in the “green” zone due to a slight uptick in cases. As school is about to start, we cannot overstate the importance of wearing masks and strictly adhering to the CDC and DPH guidelines that keep us all safe. The health metrics we monitor are the key indicators to getting us back to school, allowing us to advance through the phases, and keeping us all safe.

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 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