



HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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September 4, 2020

Dear HPS Community,

As we enter the Labor Day weekend, I hope this email finds you all well and ready for a fantastic weekend. The weather for the South Shore this weekend looks perfect for family fun and outdoor activity. I do hope you are all able to get outside and enjoy it to the fullest.

As we count down the days to the start of the school year, this week was a buzz of activity across the district. We had a productive week of professional development for our educators and we continue to ready our facilities for the students that will arrive soon. Highlights of the week included live workshops led by outside presenters from Ed Tech and Microsoft, as well as in house presentations by HPS staff with expertise on various aspects of our hybrid/remote learning model. We are grateful to the talented HPS educators who were willing to share their skill and best practices with colleagues. Educators also had time to meet with curriculum directors and grade level teams to plan subject specific lessons and activities. We miss our students, but we also feel that the time spent during professional development will serve us well in launching the school year on the highest possible note. The inside of our schools will undoubtedly look different this year, with hallways marked with arrows to control traffic, signage to remind us all about the protocols we put in place to keep everyone safe, and hand sanitizing stations throughout each building. Although things may look a bit different, it is time to get excited about getting back to school.

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

K-5 Updates:

This past week, all elementary families had the opportunity to participate in Zoom information nights with administrators and staff from their respective buildings. This coming week, elementary principals will share finalized class lists, which required a few additional adjustments. Also forthcoming from elementary principals will be information about K-5 orientation opportunities.

HMS Updates:

This past week, HMS families received information about student cohort assignments and this coming week, Principal Smith will share information about HMS schedules and orientation opportunities. Please note that the HMS Information Night, previously scheduled for Wednesday,

September 9th has been rescheduled to Thursday, September 10. More details and Zoom link to follow from Principal Smith.

HHS Updates:

This past week, HHS families received information about student cohort assignments and this afternoon, Principal Swanson shared HHS schedules. Information about orientation activities at HHS will be forthcoming. The HHS Information Night is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8th, at 7 PM. Zoom link to follow from Principal Swanson.

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. The COVID response 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. Currently, Hingham has been upgraded to the "Grey" zone (previously referred to as white) and our health metrics continue to trend in the right direction. There were 4 positive COVID-19 cases reported in Hingham over the past 14 days and our positive test rate was 0.37%. 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](#).

I wish you all a wonderful Labor Day Weekend.

Until next time,

Paul Austin, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools