

Important Information from HCSD

7/3/2020 News

Joint Communication from Superintendent Carlomagno and HCSD Board President Geddis

Board Meeting Outcomes

At the HCSD School Board meeting on Thursday morning July 2, the Trustees unanimously voted to approve a plan for returning to school this fall. Additionally, the start date for students returning to campus has been delayed from the original mid-week start date, to the new start of school date of Monday, August 24, 2020. At that time, we intend to offer two options for families: (1) a student may choose to attend school in person (five days per week on campus with shortened days); or (2) a student may choose 100% distance learning (for a trimester commitment) through HCSD Remote School.

Calendar

In our originally approved calendar for the next school year, we adopted the typical annual schedule of distributing non-student professional development days throughout the year. Given the complexities of reopening school under the current health situation, we have decided to pull all non-student professional development days to the start of the school year, in order to help our staff be as prepared as possible for quality instruction this year. Students will still receive the same number of instructional days and the last day of school will remain unchanged as Friday, June 11, 2021. Staff may determine that additional professional learning days are needed throughout the school year. If this is the case, information will be brought to the Board for their approval and will be communicated to parents. [Here is a link to the updated calendar that can be found on our website.](#)

Returning to School Model

In terms of our plans for the structure of school in the fall, we first need to acknowledge that this has been a moving target over the last month. The health orders, both for schools and for the general public, have at times varied dramatically from week to week. The plans we outline here assume that the health situation in August will remain similar to what it is today. But please keep in mind that the San Mateo County Health Officer has the authority to change Health Orders at any time, and it is certainly possible that, whatever our current plans are, if the situation changes again in the fall, we may need to adopt new plans (perhaps with very little warning). Naturally, we will follow whatever direction the County Health Officer gives us. At the moment, the Health Officer is strongly encouraging schools to offer in-person instruction in the fall. **The Board will be hosting a meeting during the first week in August (date and time to be determined) to get an update on detailed plans and logistics for the start of school from staff. The meeting is open to the public and we encourage your virtual attendance.**

Preparing to Open School

To prepare to have students return to campus in person, we are implementing safety protocols according to the Four Pillars from the County Office of Education: Health & Hygiene, Face Coverings, Physical Distancing, and Limiting Gatherings. We will have temperature checks upon entry to campus; hand washing every two hours; hand sanitizing stations throughout campus; outdoor learning encouraged; Plexiglas shields for high-traffic locations; bathrooms cleaned every 3 hours; and cleaning with electrostatic sprayers and a fog electric atomizer sprayer.

Face coverings will be expected for students and staff throughout the day. Children will not be allowed on campus without a face covering, and extra face coverings will be available for any staff or students who need them in the middle of the day. Student desks will be arranged with a six-foot physical separation. Outdoor learning will be encouraged with spaces and furniture. Pick up and drop off will be distributed around the campus, with staggered start times, and multiple recess and lunch periods. Hallways will have directional or passing areas. Staff and other adult meetings (including parent meetings) will be held online -- even for staff that are physically adjacent on campus.

We are working closely with the county office of education in developing procedures and protocol if/when we have a member of our school community is diagnosed with COVID-19. Preliminary information was shared with the Trustees during the July 2nd meeting.

Students have two options

1. For students that wish to return to campus, we will offer school five days a week, in-person instruction with shortened days. Below are sample student schedules for elementary and for Crocker middle school.
2. Alternatively, for families who choose to avoid in-person experiences, we will host HCSD Remote School: a K-8 remote distance-learning only option, offering 5-days a week synchronous instruction for any student in grades K-8.

Next Steps

1. As part of this newsletter, you will find a very brief survey ([linked here](#) and also found above the sample student schedules). We know that many families are waiting to hear more details about our in-person and remote models, before making a commitment. However, in order to plan the structure of those two models, it would greatly help us to have a rough idea what fraction of our student population will opt for which model. Please help us by filling out this short survey now. Before we have detailed plans, our hope is to identify the number of families that have ALREADY (1) decided on 100% distance learning, (2) decided on in-person learning, or (3) are still waiting to decide until they hear more details about the specific plans. The results of this survey will help us determine class numbers and configurations in the fall.
2. Once we hear from families we will look at class sizes and configuration for each school site.
3. We will then work to further develop details for Return to School for All and Remote School and will then send this information to parents asking for a commitment to either program. This second survey will likely be sent in the coming weeks.

We wish to thank all the many administrators, staff, and parents that have worked tirelessly over the last month to brainstorm and analyze the many possible Return To School models that were considered in depth. Members of our **Core Return to School Team** and **Return to School Advisory Committee** were instrumental in analyzing models, offering suggestions, and helping to generate the models presented to the Board.

Every school district has been struggling with planning school under these difficult circumstances, and unfortunately there are no perfect solutions. Each option has many pros and cons, and some choices will be better for some family situations than others. We have been carefully tracking the planning and

choices made by other local school districts in San Mateo County as well. Different districts will be making different choices, but in the end our planning committees showed a strong preference for the model that we have described here. The final authority, of course, rests with the School Board, and with their vote on July 2nd they approved the committee's recommendations. We are proceeding with attempting to implement this plan to the best of our ability, but once again we want to caution the whole community that we have no control over the progress of this pandemic, and if the health situation changes significantly, there is some chance that we (like all school districts) will be forced to change our education plans again, on short notice.

Thank you for your patience, and we hope everyone stays safe!

Sincerely,

Louann Carlomagno Ed.D, Superintendent

Don Geddis, HCSD Board President

Please Complete this Important Survey Regarding Returning to School: Fall 2020



HCSD Special Board Meeting 7_2_2020 (3).pdf

Linked at the Presentation Slides from the July 2nd HCSD Board Meeting.



Download
2.2 MB

A Day in the Life: Kindergarten Student

Students line up outside classroom 6 feet apart marked by X's

- 8:00- School begins- Temperature check, hand sanitizer
 - 8:00-8:30- Morning Meeting
 - 8:30-9:15- Math
 - 9:15-9:45 Phonics and Word Work and Hand washing
 - **9:45-10:00 Recess**
 - 10:00-10:15 Hand washing and Snack
 - 10:15-10:45 Specialists
 - 10:45-11:15 Reading Workshop
 - 11:15-11:45 Writing Workshop
 - 11:45-12:00 Closing "Circle" and Hand washing
 - **12:00 Dismissal**
 - 1:00-1:30 Synchronous Learning
-

A Day in the Life: 5th Grade Student

Students line up outside classroom 6 feet apart marked by X's

- 8:00- School begins- Temperature check, hand sanitizer
- 8:00-8:30- Morning Meeting
- 8:30-9:15- Math
- 9:15-10:10-Writers Workshop
- 10:10-10:15 Hand washing
- **10:15-10:30 Recess**
- 10:30-10:40 Hand washing
- 10:40-12:20 Readers Workshop, Science and Social Studies
- 12:20-12:30 Hand washing
- **12:30-1 Lunch**
- 1-1:10 Safety protocols-Hand washing
- 1:10-1:40 Specialists
- 1:40-1:45 Hand washing
- **1:45 Dismissal**

Crocker Draft Student Bell Schedules

COHORT A - 6	COHORT B - 7	COHORT C - 8
PERIOD 1: 8:15-9:10	PERIOD 1: 8:35-9:30	PERIOD 1 9:00-9:55
PERIOD 2: 9:15-10:01	PERIOD 2: 9:35-10:21	PERIOD 2 10:00-10:47
BRUNCH: 10:06-10:25	BRUNCH: 10:26-10:45	BRUNCH 10:47-11:06
PERIOD 3: 10:25-11:12	PERIOD 3: 10:50-11:38	PERIOD 3 11:11-11:56
LUNCH: 11:12-11:42	PERIOD 4: 11:43-12:33	LUNCH 11:56-12:26
PERIOD 4 11:47-12:34	Lunch 12:33-12:53	PERIOD 4 12:31-1:18
PERIOD 5: 12:39-1:26	PERIOD 5: 12:58-1:45	PERIOD 5 1:23-2:10

Developing a Culture of Testing for COVID-19

Dear Families and Educators,

Please consider participating in the [Baseline COVID-19 Testing Program](#) in support of community-based testing initiatives.

To do this, you need to sign up and identify yourself (18 and over only), and then make an appointment. **The testing is free, and available via drive-through at the San Mateo Event Center.** The test itself involves self-swabbing of your nose from inside your own car. It is available whether you have any symptoms or not, and whether or not you have been in contact with anyone who has been infected. Because COVID-19 appears to have significant asymptomatic infections, it will help contain the spread of the virus for people to be tested whether or not they suspect they might have been infected.

Why should we all consider being tested?

For HCSD, as we plan to re-open schools in the fall with children back on campus, it would be helpful for our whole community to band together and attempt to limit the spread of the virus. Along with wearing face coverings, physical distancing, and hand washing, one helpful and relatively simple intervention would be widespread voluntary testing.

As a district, we encourage any willing HCSD parent or educator to get tested, for the good of our whole community.

Thank you for your consideration,
Louann

Louann Carlomagno, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Baseline COVID-19 testing program

English Español

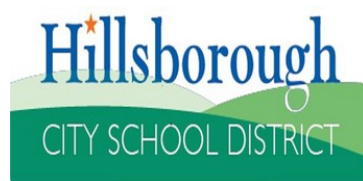
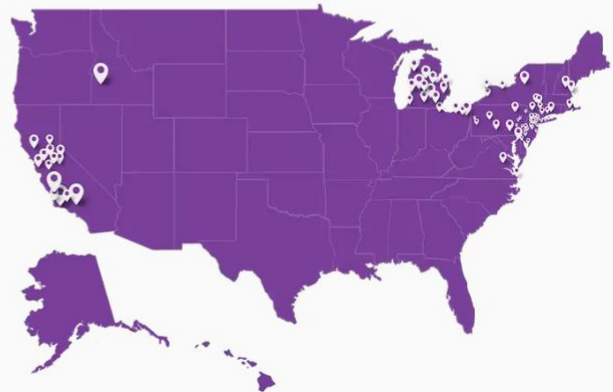
In support of community-based testing initiatives

Help protect yourself and the people around you by getting tested through this program.

COVID-19 testing is open in [select states](#):

CA, CT, DE, ID, MA, MD, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA and VA, and we are continuing to expand.

Get started



Hillsborough City School District



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