



HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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August 16, 2021

Good Afternoon Hawthorne Families.

As we close in on the 2021-2022 school year, we wanted to share a number of important updates. First, we look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Thursday, September 2, 2021. It has been a year and a half since we've had all of our students in attendance and we are excited to see everyone in-person.

Also, this summer we've held numerous meetings to discuss our reopening and we continue to monitor current COVID numbers and the [NJDOH regional matrix](#). We have also developed and submitted our [ROAD FORWARD](#) plan to the DOE, which can be found on our district website. Our plan continues to provide for full-day in-person instruction, in-school lunch, and before and aftercare paid programs provided by the school district and the Hawthorne Boys and Girls Club.

Finally, please remember that the success of this school year and our full-time in-person instructional day will require the cooperation and support of all stakeholders. Outlined below are the procedures that must be followed as we begin the 2021-2022 school year.

Mask Requirement

As per Governor Murphy's announcement on August 6, 2021, and [Executive Order 251](#), masks will be required while inside the school for students, staff, and visitors throughout the day. However, as we did last year, we will do our best to provide mask breaks throughout the day.

The state mask mandate includes students wearing masks in the following areas.

- On school buses, in classrooms, hallways, common areas and to enter and exit the building
- Masks are optional *outdoors*
- Masks are also optional *indoors* under the following circumstances:
 - Any day the district deems to be excessively hot
 - During lunch
 - When students are playing musical instruments
 - During rigorous PE class activities

**Mask requirements for after school activities, including interscholastic athletics can be found on our [district website](#) or by clicking the following link: [Fall 2021 Parent Update](#)

Department of Health Guidelines

As per the most recent [guidelines from the NJ Department of Health](#), please be advised that we will be adhering to the **quarantine guidelines provided in the above document**. We are also asking parents to adhere to the guidelines below when determining whether to send your child to school.

Parents should not send students to school when sick. School staff should have plans to isolate students with overt symptoms of any infectious disease that develops during the school day. For school settings, CDC recommends that students and staff with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- *At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR*
- *At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.*

Quarantining

The District will follow the most up to date quarantine and contact tracing protocols available. Please note that the district is currently finalizing plans on how to support students who the NJDOH indicates need to quarantine because of a school based close contact or any student who tests positive for COVID 19. We will provide further details on how quarantining students will be supported in a future letter. However, in the meantime, we will follow the quarantine guidelines below.

- Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine because of a close contact exposure as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- Individuals who have clinically recovered from COVID do not need to quarantine if the exposure occurs within 90 days of recovery.

Secondary contacts continue to have no restrictions but should monitor and report any symptoms that may develop.

Important District Calendars

The Hawthorne School District's 2021 - 2022 district calendar can be found [HERE](#).

This calendar includes **opening day for students, which is September 2, 2021** and all other holidays, professional development days, parent conferences for elementary parents, and more.

Guidance Department Updates

As we approach the start of the new school year, and transition back together after a year apart, the Hawthorne School District is excited to offer a [virtual parent workshop series](#) titled, [Let's Talk Mental Health](#). Please click on the link provided to view the schedule of events.

The goal of this series is to engage parents and families with the necessary tools, resources, and information to promote the academic success and social emotional wellbeing of our students as they return full time to our buildings in September. These workshops will be presented in partnership with West Bergen Mental Health and Fiedelvey Consulting, to introduce and highlight the district's mental health initiatives for this upcoming school year.

Food Services

Pre-packaged lunches will be made available and will be free for all students this school year. All lunches must be pre-ordered via the link on each school's individual website. School Principals will be sharing more information regarding the process of pre-ordering lunches. Any questions should be addressed with the Principal at your child's school.

Chromebook Dissemination for 6th and 9th Grade students

Students entering Grade 6: The first laptop pickup is scheduled for Thursday, August 19th. This pickup will be for students who are attending Leadership Camp. There will be a second pickup for all other students that will take place on Monday, August 30th from 9:00am to 10:00am. Students are asked to wear a mask to this pickup.

Students entering Grade 9: Laptop pickups are scheduled for Wednesday, August 18th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and Thursday, August 26th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Students should enter through the front door at HHS and should wear a mask.

Visitors to the Schools and School Facility Use

As we begin the school year, we want to make all parents aware that we will be limiting the number of visitors to our schools. Drop boxes will continue to be available for parents to drop off items for their children that are needed during the school day. All other visits will be limited to scheduled appointments only and must wear masks in the school building. Please contact the main office of your child's school to schedule an appointment. We appreciate your patience and understanding regarding this important matter.

Social Media and YouTube Links

Please visit our Hawthorne Public School social media sites and youtube pages to stay informed. We will continue to post updates and other important information on these sites.

[HPS's Facebook](#)

[HPS's Twitter](#)

[HPS's Instagram](#)

[District's YouTube page](#)

As always, I would like to thank our parents for your continued support and patience and we look forward to a great school year. We will continue to share updates with our Hawthorne Community and will post any and all communications to [The Road Forward](#) webpage. Please remember, we are here to answer questions, so please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, building administrator, or my office with any questions.

With Appreciation,



Richard A. Spirito