



HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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January 5, 2022

Dear Hawthorne Families,

Happy New Year! I hope this letter finds your family doing well. We realize this was a challenging holiday season for many of our students and families. However, we hope that 2022 brings all of our Hawthorne families peace, happiness, and good health.

We are very happy to share that all of the Hawthorne Public Schools will reopen on Monday, January 10, 2022. Prior to returning on Monday, we ask that parents please read through the following information as we feel the reminders provided below will assist in keeping our schools open and allow us to maintain in-person instruction.

Return to In-Person Instruction

All students will return to in-person instruction on Monday, January 10, 2022. All schools will maintain a full day schedule and extracurricular activities will continue as scheduled. As we prepare to return to in-person instruction, we would like to share the following reminders. First, it is important that all students arrive at school with masks and properly wear them throughout the school day. This includes wearing masks in classrooms, hallways, as soon as students have finished eating lunch, and immediately after snack at the elementary schools. If students are not feeling well or exhibiting COVID symptoms, they should remain at home. While at school, we will continue to socially distance students in classrooms and lunchrooms to the greatest extent possible.

One final reminder for all elementary students. Please return any school-issued chromebooks and the charger provided to you prior to the winter recess. Students should bring these chromebooks and charger back to school on Monday, January 10, 2022, and return them to their homeroom teachers.

Updated NJ Department of Health Guidelines

As most parents are aware, the CDC has recently recommended changes to quarantine time frames. However, the New Jersey Department of Health has communicated that these CDC guidelines do not apply to New Jersey schools. Since the onset of COVID, the district has adhered to the guidance provided by the NJDOH and will continue to do so. With that being said, please see the [HPS's Updated Quarantine and School Exclusion Guidelines](#). **Please note:** Any student who was placed in quarantine prior to January 10, 2022, must complete that quarantine period prior to returning to school. Finally, please provide copies of any updated vaccination information to your child's school nurse.

Interscholastic Athletics Update

Upon our return on January 10, 2022, all extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics will continue as scheduled. However, until further notice, we will be limiting fans at all middle school and high school sporting events. Due to the size of our middle and high school gyms, we will only be allowing two guests per athlete at our home basketball games and wrestling matches. We will continue to monitor COVID numbers and will communicate any changes to district protocols or recommendations provided by the NJSIAA. Please remember that all high school athletic events will continue to be live-streamed via our [HHS Athletics youtube channel](#).

Inclement Weather Update

The weather forecast for the end of this week includes snow Thursday night into Friday. However, please remember that we've already used one of our inclement weather days for Hurricane Ida on the first day of school. Due to the fact that we have two months of winter ahead, regardless of how much snow falls this week, Thursday, January 6th and Friday, January 7th will continue to be full virtual instruction days. Once we return to in-person instruction next week, we will make use of our remaining inclement weather days for any future snow events.

Finally, we would like to remind all families to please adhere to the current COVID Quarantine and Exclusion guidelines, keep your child home if they are exhibiting symptoms, and communicate if your child or any member of your household tests positive for COVID-19. It's essential that this ongoing monitoring of COVID numbers and additional positive cases continue in the coming weeks.

As always, we appreciate everyone's continued cooperation and support and we look forward to our students returning to in-person instruction next week.

With Appreciation,



Richard A. Spirito