



August 19, 2020

Dear Hillside Public School Families,

I hope you and your family continue to remain healthy and safe while enjoying the rest of your summer. On behalf of the Board of Education and all employees in the Hillside Public Schools, I'd like to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year; where **new pathways** will create **new possibilities** for our school community.

As you may be aware, we will be implementing our drastically improved remote/virtual learning program in September as the health and safety of our school community remains of paramount importance. We will reassess our ability to deliver "in-person" instruction, 3 weeks before the conclusion of the first marking period.

Our first day of remote/virtual instruction is Tuesday September 8, 2020. All students, Pre-K-12, will be expected to log into their homeroom or class by 8:30 AM, where teachers will be waiting with excitement and prepared to deliver "real-time" instruction. All students will be expected to be online during their scheduled class period. Your child's schedule and teacher assignments will be mailed to your home on August 20, 2020.

Our virtual learning classes will be facilitated through Canvas, a secured platform designed to maximize student learning in virtual environments. All students and families will receive Canvas registration information (log in/passwords) on September 3, 2020 from their child's school. Canvas overviews for families are linked below. Moreover, all schools will host a virtual Canvas training for students and their families on Thursday September 3rd. Information for each school's virtual Canvas training for families will be posted on their websites.

- [Canvas Overview for Parents](#)
- [Canvas Parent App Video](#)
- [Canvas Overview for Students](#)

If your child needs a chromebook or internet connectivity, please report to their school on the dates and times listed below. We will be adhering to social distance guidelines and will advise parents of distribution locations upon arrival. Parents and/or caretakers who borrow a device will be required to sign a contract and must bring a valid photo identification. Mask must be worn at all times, when reporting to an HPS facility.

HPS CHROMEBOOK DISTRIBUTION TIMES			
	Tuesday August 26 th	Wednesday August 27 th	Thursday August 28 th
Morning Distribution	8:30- 11:30 AM	8:30- 11:30 AM	8:30- 11:30 AM
Afternoon Distribution	12:30- 3:30 PM	12:30- 3:30 PM	12:30- 3:30 PM

Classroom materials needed for remote/virtual instruction will also be distributed at each school, by grade level, on the dates and times listed below. Principals will notify families when their child's grade level can report to retrieve classroom materials on Thursday August 27th. Materials will be distributed, if applicable, from September 1-September 3, as indicated below.

HPS CLASSROOM MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION TIMES			
	Tuesday September 1 st	Wednesday September 2 nd	Thursday September 3 rd
Morning Distribution	8:30- 11:30 AM	8:30- 11:30 AM	8:30- 11:30 AM
Afternoon Distribution	12:30- 3:30 PM	12:30- 3:30 PM	12:30- 3:30 PM

Finally, instructions to complete meal eligibility forms will be enclosed in your mailing. Meal distribution dates and times for eligible families will be shared on our website and via robocalls the week of September 1st. We ask that all families update their contact information (phone number, email, address) upon receiving forms from your school. Information related to "back to school" supplies will be posted on each school's website, if applicable.



HILLSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Visions, New Pathways, New Possibilities

Mr. A. Robert Gregory
Acting Superintendent of Schools

We will continue to send district messages and update our website with important information regarding the first day of school, September 8th, and beyond.

Please contact your child's case manager should you have questions about our remote learning program. We thank you for your continued patience, understanding, and support as we navigate the many facets of this public health emergency and strive to make the Hillside Public Schools a model of educational excellence.

Warm Regards,

A. Robert Gregory
Acting Superintendent