



The Hill School Spring Term 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

Academics

What is *Virtual Hill*?

Virtual Hill is a digital learning environment that replicates the best aspects of The Hill's academic, co-curricular, and community experience. [Click here](#) to review the schedule through April 10.

What is expected of students during *Virtual Hill*?

As our community transitions to *Virtual Hill*, students still are naturally expected to adhere to various guidelines and expectations. Even with significant changes in how we carry out our daily lives, our community remains committed to our mission, shared values, and maintaining the Honor Code. [Click here](#) to review standards and expectations.

How will I get books and supplies for my classes?

You will hear from your teachers by March 26 regarding materials needed to begin *Virtual Hill* classes on March 30. Once *Virtual Hill* is underway, you may realize you are in need of a specific resource. Please communicate with your teacher about how best to meet that need.

What should I do if I have to order different materials/supplies for my class?

The School will provide digital access to materials whenever possible and permitted under copyright law. Students who receive a financial aid book stipend may receive more specific instructions from their teachers about how to obtain any additional required books, apps, or other supplies.

What about classes in art, music, or engineering that are difficult to replicate remotely?

Teachers will provide alternative assignments related to the subject matter during the period of remote learning.

Will the School's typical grading policy apply to the spring term?

As we launch *Virtual Hill*, our normal grading policy is in place. Throughout the duration of *Virtual Hill*, we continually will review and revise plans based on feedback gathered from teachers and students.

Whom should I contact if I have trouble with my computer?

You should contact ITS at itssupport@thehill.org.

College Counseling

What should we expect from College Counseling during *Virtual Hill*?

During *Virtual Hill*, the College Counseling Office will host weekly ZOOM meetings to ensure our students are well informed and on track with their college process. These meetings will be focused on specific topics which will be shared ahead of time. Students and parents are also encouraged to schedule individual virtual meetings with their assigned college counselor. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your college counselor with any questions or concerns.

What about AP coursework and testing?

The College Board has made specific recommendations to teachers regarding what content will be included in the modified test. Your teachers will adjust their spring term curriculum accordingly as they plan for *Virtual Hill*. The College Board has moved to online AP testing for May.

What about SAT testing? Are the June dates still available?

The May SAT was cancelled by the College Board. The College Board will provide future additional SAT testing opportunities for students as soon as possible in place of canceled administrations. They have not yet cancelled the June 6 SAT date. Please know that The Hill will not be a testing site for the June or July SAT. You can visit the [College Board website](#) to for additional updates.

Student Life

When can I return to campus to pack up my room?

Campus remains closed to all but faculty residents and essential employees. Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf has taken a highly proactive approach and has closed all non-life-sustaining businesses and organizations in Pennsylvania, including schools and universities. In addition, on Monday, March 23 he issued a two-week, stay-at-home order for five Pennsylvania counties, including Montgomery County, where Pottstown is located. As long as the COVID-19 outbreak remains a national and local public health crisis, we cannot resume campus operations. We will notify the community when campus re-opens and it is permissible to return to retrieve belongings or pack your room. In the meantime, we will inspect rooms for perishables and other hazards.

Will we still have Commencement in May?

Our hope is Commencement will occur as scheduled on May 23. However, there is a good possibility that we may have to arrange for a virtual graduation ceremony. We do intend to hold on-campus Commencement exercises for the Class of 2020. Members of the class will jump in the Dell and see their bricks placed on the Quad pathway. A later date in the summer, or perhaps even during Hill vs. Lawrenceville Weekend in November are considerations. We are committed to celebrating this culminating and time-honored tradition with the Class of 2020, surrounded by classmates, teachers, and loved ones.

How will discipline be enforced during *Virtual Hill*?

Rules, standards, and procedures outlined in *The Hill School Handbook* reasonably apply across all circumstances during *Virtual Hill*. The Deans' Office will continue to communicate with students and their advisers as necessary.

Will Hill Athletics participate in a spring season?

We are in regular contact with our league and peer school athletics administrations. We all intend to do everything we can to have interscholastic athletics competition if we return to campus and if it is deemed safe to compete. The health of our coaches, student-athletes, and our School community will always be our top priority. We are heartbroken for our spring teams and student-athletes who already are missing such a special part of their Hill experience.

What will happen to theatre as my afternoon activity during the spring term? Will we still have the spring productions of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?* and *The Hobbit*?

There will indeed be a spring theatre season. Please look out for a very special announcement from Mr. McGriff very soon.

What will happen to non-athletic, co-curricular programs?

Additional co-curricular activities, such as Hill News, Debate, and Community Service will still take place during *Virtual Hill*.

Health and Wellness**Has anyone on campus tested positive for the COVID-19 infection?**

To our knowledge, no one on campus has tested positive for COVID-19.

If I become ill during *Virtual Hill*, whom should I contact?

If you become ill and miss class, you notify the Deans' Office at deansoffice@thehill.org. If you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 or experience COVID-19 symptoms, you should contact your primary health care provider. If you test positive for COVID-19, you should alert the Wellness Center at wellnesscenter@thehill.org.

What will happen if my teacher becomes ill?

If your teacher becomes ill, the School will work with the relevant Department Chair to ensure the course is covered.

Will campus be cleaned while physical classes are not in session?

Yes. As during the general course of business, we are working with our Facilities department and the School's third-party cleaning service to clean all public areas around campus, including bathroom facilities and common rooms within the dormitories. Individual dormitory rooms will not be cleaned at this time.

What protocols will be put in place if someone tests positive for COVID-19 when campus reopens?

The COVID-19 protocols are changing rapidly. We developed our first protocol in late January and have revised it several times over the past few months as the expert guidance has evolved. We will continue to follow the guidelines put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Montgomery County's Office of Public Health. Our protocol when campus reopens will

reflect the most updated recommendations at that time regarding testing, isolation, contact tracing, quarantine, and cleaning.

The Hill School Operations

Will The Hill School offer a partial tuition reimbursement for this year or credit for the next academic year?

At the present time, School operations are continuing, but within a different framework. Once the community has the chance to make all the necessary preparations for online learning and that process is fully underway, the Business Office will carefully review both costs and savings related to *Virtual Hill*. Once that review is complete, a decision will be made as to whether the School will or will not be able to provide any partial refunds or credits. We ask for your patience as we navigate this complicated and unprecedented time for The Hill.

Can day students use the athletic facilities?

All indoor campus facilities are closed. Due to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's, two-week, stay-at-home order for five Pennsylvania counties, including Montgomery County, where Pottstown is located, the Far Fields complex is open to **campus residents only**. We will notify the community when campus facilities re-open.

Is Hill planning to resume normal operations in the fall of 2020?

The Hill is fully committed to resuming full operations for the fall 2020. However, given the fluid nature of the COVID-19 outbreak, we will evaluate the School's plans regularly and modify as needed. We will keep an open line of communication with the entire community between now and then.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the 2020-21 academic year?

If you have questions regarding enrollment for the 2020-21 academic year, please email Tom Eccleston, assistant headmaster for enrollment management, at teccleston@thehill.org or call 610-326-1000, ext. 7252.