

Aug. 4, 2020

Dear Middle School parents,

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer and has found time to relax in a comfortable and safe environment. We are so looking forward to seeing the boys on campus in a few weeks. Our new building will be ready, as will our Middle School teachers and current program. As a Middle School team, we spent numerous hours crafting our schedule, preparing our curriculum and determining the best methods of instruction for the upcoming school year. I am so proud of all the suggestions and advice I have received from our faculty in how to make this work. I am also extremely appreciative of the families that have reached out over the last few weeks to share their concerns, as well as their support. Opening on Sept. 9 was our goal this summer and we are thrilled that all the moving parts seem to be coming together so this can happen. Of course, this was all planned with the understanding that we will take extraordinary efforts to keep our students safe from drop off to pick up, while maintaining as many of the unique elements of The Haverford School as possible.

The following information about our reopening plans in the Middle School are directly tied to current guidelines and requirements set by local and national health authorities. They were created with the expectation that we will be on campus, physically distanced, wearing masks, and able to easily transition to distance learning if the state demands. Our top priority every year is to keep our students safe at all times while on campus. Our plans are focused on making sure our students enjoy school, have new experiences, and create positive memories while minimizing risks associated with COVID-19. These plans also took careful consideration of the parent feedback we received from our survey this past spring, current best practices in education, as well as creating a sustainable program for our teachers. Over the summer we looked to simplify the distance learning experience for our students and provide a more structured afternoon program. All of this and more helped us to construct the current plans. The decisions we made throughout the School kept the following priorities in mind.

1. maintain the health and wellness of community members,
2. prioritize and preserve in-person learning,
3. maintain educational continuity between in-person and virtual learning scenarios,
4. sustain the essence of Haverford's academic programming.

We are planning to be on campus for as long as possible starting on Sept. 9. If you have specific concerns regarding your son's attendance at the start of school, please reach out to me as soon as possible. Our summer mailing is scheduled for mid-August and we need everyone committed to a decision so we can be fully prepared for the start of school. Please read through this letter in its entirety and let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Our Building

We are extraordinarily lucky that we will all fit in the new building with the appropriate physical distancing. The new Middle School is designed so each teacher can teach in their own classroom on grade level floors with Form II (8th grade) on the top floor, Form I (7th grade) on the second floor and 6th grade on the first floor. Unlike regular school where students move from room to room, this year our students are assigned to a specific room on the appropriate grade level floor. They will have a homeroom teacher who is responsible for them most of the

day. Normally, we have 18 to 20 students per section. This year we are focused on physical distancing between the students and their teachers. Our three science labs can safely seat up to 17 boys six feet apart and our classrooms can accommodate up to 13. While these are the absolute maximum number of students we are able to place in our rooms, most will have fewer students than this. On each floor, there is one science lab and five or six classrooms.

We will have more sections in each grade level in order to accommodate the recommended six feet of physical distancing for each student. We will use every classroom on every floor to maintain these appropriate standards, a total of 19 classrooms for our 230 boys. Our new building also has large bathrooms on each floor that can safely accommodate two students at a time. There will also be markings on the floor indicating the direction of travel in and out of the building and one-way stairwells. We are thankful we can all be together under one roof and maintain the appropriate standards for physical distancing.

Our Schedule

Building our schedule required us to consider students' safety, faculty sustainability, delivery of our program and meeting the needs of our boys. The greatest challenge was considering how to teach these sections based on physical distancing, while keeping our students in one classroom for a majority of the school day. The only possible conclusion was to do the opposite of a regular school day, and keep the boys in one place as our teachers move from class to class. This lowers the chances of transmission through contact as the boys will be in one room for most of the day and only touch surfaces and materials assigned to them. We request students bring all their materials in their backpack, which will stay with them in their classroom, behind their desk. We will not use our School lockers or the Middle School locker room this year.

The school day will start at 8:30 a.m. This year, boys are to come into the Middle School building when they arrive. Middle School boys must be dropped off at the Railroad Avenue entrance to the School, and boys are to be let out of cars on the passenger side before the circle. We will not gather in the Dining Hall this year at all. The earliest a boy may arrive on campus is 7:30 a.m.

The boys will have two classes in the morning and two classes in the afternoon. Each class lasts for an hour, and we will build in time for community periods, lunch, and recess in between classes. This schedule is designed to work on campus as well as off campus if we are required to move to a virtual platform. We are currently planning on having sports from 2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m., but it is highly unlikely that we will be competing against other schools. There will be no after school activities at this time.

Our schedule will consist of classes in all major disciplines to include English, math, history, science, languages, fine arts, physical education, and reading. Boys will see each class three times a week and will have two classes of PE a week. We will follow a five day rotation so there is a consistency regarding Monday through Friday for planning purposes. We will continue with our trimester-based program, which allows for grading periods three times a year in December, March, and June, with mid-trimester reports in October, January, and April.

Our goal is to have school be safe for all students and that all students are able to attend classes on Sept. 9. We realize this may not be possible for everyone. Please let us know if this is the case for your son. We are planning to live stream our classes for those students who cannot attend class, as well as offer some online support for those students. However, our

teachers' focus will be primarily on teaching their classes on campus. We cannot offer the same experience we did from March to June of 2020 if we are teaching on campus. However, we will provide access to classes and systems to keep our students at home as engaged as possible. Again, please let us know if you have concerns about your son attending school on Sept. 9.

Finally, should we have to revert to a distance learning platform, very little of our schedule will change as we transition into synchronous and asynchronous learning. Our goal is to make the shift from in person to virtual as seamless as possible.

Extracurricular Activities

We are planning to have athletics this fall, but unfortunately, we are ending our school day before 4:00 p.m. At this time, we are not planning on having any extracurricular activities after school. Therefore, please make sure to have arrangements in place to pick up your son no later than 4:00 p.m. every day. If this current policy changes, we will let you know.

Middle School Health and Safety Procedures

Please see the [re-opening web page](#) for additional information on the School-wide health and safety precautions in place. Middle School spaces will be organized to ensure six feet of physical distance, and students must wear masks at all times while on campus, with the exception of when they are eating or drinking.

Additional hand sanitation stations will be placed throughout the building including in all classrooms. Signs will be posted throughout the building providing reminders to adhere to physical distancing, mask wearing, and personal hygiene guidelines. Students will be expected to keep all personal items in their possession at all times. Bags, school supplies, or other personal items may not be left unattended in the building. As such, students should make every effort to minimize the personal belongings that they are bringing to school on a daily basis. Form II students are welcome to bring their own computers to school or use a school-provided one. We will provide a computer to the boys in Form I and 6th grade. Computers may not be shared, just as students will not be permitted to share school supplies or other personal items with one another.

Books and Supplies

The Middle School provides a large number of text for our students, while our families are largely responsible for supplies. This year is no different and we have added a few extra items to our supply list to assist in the boys interaction and learning while on or off campus. Please review the supply list and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Dress Code

Our dress code is changing to reflect the current safety procedures regarding hygiene and minimizing the spread of the virus. Boys are welcome to wear a polo shirt to campus with khaki pants or shorts and sneakers. Please send your son to school in clean clothes every day and please wash his clothing every night. On days when the boys have PE, they may come to school dressed for gym class.

Summer Reading

By now, the boys should be well into their summer reading. If you son has yet to begin the process or cannot find the information, please click here for all you need to know about summer reading in Middle School: haverford.org/summerreading.

Dismissal:

The Middle School will continue to dismiss at the following times:

- 6th grade dismissal - 3:30 p.m.
- Form I dismissal - 3:40 p.m.
- Form II dismissal - 3:50 p.m.

Areas will be designated outside the Middle School and the Lower School along the carline for each grade level. Students will have to keep their face mask on until they are in their car and the car door is closed.

Parents must remain in their cars during dismissal. Please DO NOT park and walk to the pick up area, as this will place you and our students/faculty at greater risk and will violate the no visitor policy that is in place to protect our community.

Brothers Program:

The Lower School will continue to host the Brothers Program for boys who have older siblings in the Lower School or other school divisions. Parents are welcome to pick up both their sons at the pick up time for the oldest boy. The younger sibling will remain in his classroom until the older boys' dismissal time, at which time School faculty will coordinate a meeting point and pick up place. Additional details will be shared closer to the start of school.

Back to School Mailing:

In mid-August, we will send out our back-to-school mailing with additional information, including your son's homeroom, advisor group, teacher lists, and forms that we require before the start of school. This will be our next communication and, similar to this one, will answer many questions regarding policies and procedures. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please let me know. I am always available and happy to assist.

Thank you for your continued support of The Haverford School. We look forward to seeing the boys in the near future and wish everyone the best and safest possible end to the summer.

Take care,

Jay Greytok