

Good evening Hamden High School Families,

I hope you and your families are well. As the Hamden High School team continues to prepare for school to reopen, I would like to provide you with updated operational information.

1. All hallways and stairwells will be one way in accordance with CDC guidelines.
2. We are continuing to work on creating alternative locations for lunch waves to reduce the number of students eating at once in the cafeteria.
3. Students who have study hall or lunch during 8th period will be allowed to get their lunch and leave school early with parent permission. In addition, students with a lunch/study hall combination periods 7 and 8, may also get their lunch and leave school early with parent permission. Please email your student's House Administrator giving permission to either Mrs. DeCosta (last names beginning with A-K), [ddecosta@hamden.org](mailto:ddecosta@hamden.org), Mr. Trauner (last names beginning with L-Z), [strauner@hamden.org](mailto:strauner@hamden.org) or Mrs. Willis (freshman) [Twillis@hamden.org](mailto:Twillis@hamden.org) . All students must have transportation to get home and can not return to the building to ride the bus. Students will be provided an early dismissal pass indicating they have permission to get lunch and leave.
4. **School arrival:** students will be released off the bus in shifts upon arrival using two entrances on the parkway side of the school, walkers and parent drop off will use both plaza side entrances.
5. **Dismissal:** Students will be dismissed from class by floors to decrease the number of students entering the buses at one time.
6. **Elevator maximum:** 1 person
7. **Bathroom usage:** All student bathrooms will be required to have the exterior door open to improve air circulation. When possible, all bathrooms will be open each period with one student using the restroom at a time.
8. Students entering school late will be required to report directly to class.
9. **SAT information:** Hamden High School is offering a School Day SAT session on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 from 7:30 a.m - 1:03 p.m. If a senior is unable to take the SAT on September 23rd for any reason, but would still like to take advantage of the free session offered by the state, then they must email Lisa Dyer at [ldyer@hamden.org](mailto:ldyer@hamden.org). Please note, this is not a graduation requirement for the Class of 2021, but an opportunity for our seniors since they were unable to take the SAT last March. All seniors will be automatically signed up for that day, so all they need to do is show up. Room assignments will be posted throughout the school.
10. **Virtual Freshman Orientation:** Monday, August 31st @ 6PM, the Zoom link will be posted on the Hamden High School Website and sent via email.
11. **Mask Protocol:** The district is currently creating a very specific protocol to enforce mask-wearing for all students following CDC guidelines. Once it is finalized, we will share more information with you.
12. **Athletics:** Hamden High School is awaiting an update and decision from the CIAC regarding fall sports. Please contact the Athletic Director, Tom Dyer ([tdyer@hamden.org](mailto:tdyer@hamden.org)), with questions regarding sports.

## **From the School Counseling Office:**

Scheduling students for the 2020-2021 school year has proven to be a very labor intensive task. Our focus on your child's safety and everyone's well being has required us to specifically and individually go through each and every student and teacher's schedule. There is very limited opportunity for movement within your child's schedule this year. Our singular focus is to ensure that every child has the courses that they need to continue on their academic journey.

To this end, we will publish student schedules in the portal the week of August 31st. This will give you and your child at least one week to review the schedule for accuracy. If you find an error in the schedule, we need you to [alert your child's school counselor by email prior](#) to the opening of school.

Errors include:

- Having a blank period in the school day
- Missing a requirement for graduation
- Having a course before completing the prerequisite (ie: Art 25 on the schedule without having completed Art 15)

Administration has determined that counselors **DO NOT** have permission to do the following:

- Change a course from one period to another
- Change a teacher assignment

Once the school year begins, email will be the best way to initiate communication with your school counselor, whether it be to set up a phone conversation, a video conference, or for your child to meet with them in person. Counselors will also establish google classrooms for each grade level to facilitate communication and share information about college and career planning, academic resources and supports and other important information for students to know.

Please know we will continue to make appropriate adjustments as needed. Thank you for your patience and continued support as we prepare and plan the safest reopening for our entire Hamden High School Community.

Be well and have a great evening.

Principal Gannon