

FAIRFIELD LUDLOWE HIGH SCHOOL

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Mr. Greg C. Hatzis, Headmaster

Dear parents,

At the end of week 1, I feel great about where we stand. Other than a few moments of close posing for pictures and hugs in the parking lot in the morning of the first few days, your children were respectful of the social distancing rules and the mask wearing. They didn't always like it, but they seemed to understand and they truly seemed happy to be back. We also made it through the week without any positive cases. Help us to stay open by making sure your family stays safe and avoids unnecessary exposure.

Our teachers were innovative and dedicated this week. We had some mornings with slow internet speeds and connectivity issues. We had some equipment failures and some bugs to work out. We resolved most of our staffing issues with a handful more to work out. These events were the exception, and not the rule. Students and teachers began forging those important relationships that lead to successful learning environments. Once all classes had a chance to meet, protocols and procedures worked themselves out. If your child had difficulty connecting to a Google Meet or does not still have a Google Classroom Code, please reach out to the teacher or the school counseling office of your respective house. If there are Chromebook issues, the students can stop by the library or if you are remote, contact REGHELP@fairfieldschools.org.

A few quick notes about some future items.

We need to postpone Open House, which was scheduled to occur on Thursday, Sept. 17. While we would love to have each of you meet live with a teacher as the elementary and middle schools are doing, the High Schools are unique in the large number of choices we offer in both variety and level. We run 638 individual sections of classes, which means 638 individual Google Meet codes for parents to navigate through to find their children's classes. Even if each teacher emailed you a code, you could be searching through your emails for potentially eight separate codes (for each child) and you would have to make sure you had them in the right order following the precise schedule in a narrow window of time.

Instead, we will have each teacher post a video providing you with basic information about the course your child is in and also provide the digital version of the handouts you would have received. This way, you can watch and read on your own time at your own pace. We will be updating you soon on the date the website will be available to access the teachers' videos. Of course, if you have any questions about the course or about your child's performance, you may email teachers directly.

With the first week under our belts, we will be more stringent about attendance. We are required to report attendance to the State of CT as it is a significant contributing factor to student performance. On days the student's cohort is "in," we will mark students present, absent, or tardy as we always have done. For hybrid students, **you must call the house office with an excuse any time your child is physically absent from school on a day the cohort is scheduled to be in.**

For students on Always Remote or when the cohort is out of school, students are required to check into their classes *every day and every period* they are in virtual learning (5 days for always remote, 3 days for hybrid

students). We will provide directions to students on how to check in remotely at the start of next week and copy the parents.

Thank you for your patience during our opening. We learned a lot this week and we will continue to grow. As always, your children were great despite the extremely unusual way we have to operate.

Have an incredible weekend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Hatzis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Greg Hatzis, Headmaster