

September 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our School Board of Directors voted last night to approve the administration's recommendation to transition to the blended hybrid model of instruction for students as outlined in the District's Health and Safety Plan starting Monday, October 5, 2020. This decision was made based on evidence of stabilization in the region and the recommendations of the Chester County Health Department. Please refer to the September 21st meeting during which [Dr. P.J. Brennan](#), Chief Medical Officer & Senior V.P of the University of Pennsylvania Health Systems, Board Certified in Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine spoke to the return to in-person learning and my [presentation](#) overviewing the data and summarizing our model. You will be receiving more specific information from your buildings as we get closer to your child's transition to in-person learning.

Hybrid Return Schedule:

- October 1 and 2 will be in service dates for teachers and staff. (No school for students - virtual and Haverford Online)
- October 5th: Grades Kindergarten through 3
- October 12th: Grades 4 through 8
- October 19th: Grades 9 through 12

As we have stated previously, this plan is fluid and is subject to change based on updated data and medical guidance.

Within our hybrid model, students will come to school in two cohort groups (A/B) with half of our students attending Monday and Wednesday, and the other half attending on Tuesday and Thursday. Friday will be a virtual learning day, including a variety of live, synchronous instruction and recorded or self-paced assignments. Middle and high school students will be dismissed for lunch and students will continue with virtual learning in the afternoon. Elementary students will remain for a full school day and will eat lunch, socially distanced, in the cafeteria, and gym.

A phased approach not only allows for our younger grades the time to acclimate to their new environment but also gives our teachers, support staff, administration, health services, transportation department, food services, and facilities and operations departments the ability to implement and refine these new strategies so that we can safely and effectively execute our hybrid model.

According to the Chester County Health Department, one of the most important safety aspects of bringing students back for face-to-face learning is masking. Universal face coverings are required for all students while on school property, or when using school vehicles per PA Secretary of Health's Universal Face Covering Order. This updated order requires staff and students to wear face coverings at all times while in school, even when six feet of social distancing can be achieved. There are limited exceptions as included in the FAQs. It is

recognized that some individuals may be unable to wear face covering due to personal ability, age, health conditions, etc.; exceptions are specified in Section 3 of the Order. This order does provide for face covering breaks throughout the day while maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet for no longer than 10 minutes ([page 12](#)).

As we embrace our new normal, it is important to ensure students are up-to-date on immunizations, the flu vaccine, and performing [daily at home symptom screening](#). Please reach out to your building administrator or school nurse at any time with questions, concerns, or needs.

Our administrative team will continue meeting regularly to review current health guidance, metrics and protocols. We are working closely with our nursing department, the Chester County Department of Health, CHOP and public health experts to refine and enhance our protocols around such topics such as masking, social distancing, contact tracing, symptom monitoring, case tracking, hygiene, cleaning, and PPE. We continue to strive to make our schools a safe and welcoming environment for our staff and students.

Effective immediately, all of our students regardless of income are able to receive breakfast and lunch on any day that school is in session (includes virtual and in-person learning).

We encourage families to complete the [application](#) for free and reduced meals as these new waivers expire on December 31, 2020. We also encourage families to take advantage of this benefit provided by the USDA for ALL students through December 31, 2020.

Meals for virtual learning days can continue to be picked up at Haverford High School every Wednesday between the hours of 7:45-9:15 AM and 3:30-5:00 PM.

The DCIU hosted a School Re-Opening Webinar on Monday, September 21st: A Conversation with Dr. David Rubin, and Dr. Susan Coffin, from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) PolicyLab for Parents of School-Aged Children in Delaware County Schools. You can view the recorded [webinar here](#).

As a District we anticipate a need for substitute Instructional Assistants. Instructional assistants provide support to students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Students may need assistance in a variety of ways such as staying on task, having directions repeated to them, as well as physical needs such as assistance with fine motor activities. The substitute is provided specific directions by the teacher who works with the child. It is an amazing experience to assist a child and will definitely be a rewarding day! If you are interested in becoming a substitute with us please visit our [website](#).

We are excited to welcome our students back to in-person learning and we appreciate the support of our community to make this a positive experience for our children.

Sincerely,
Maureen Reusche, Ed.D.
Superintendent