



# Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools

27 Farragut Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706

Tel: (914) 478-6200 Fax: (914) 478-3293

[www.hohschools.org](http://www.hohschools.org)



*A National Blue Ribbon District of Excellence*

**Valerie J. Henning-Piedmonte, Ed.D.**

Superintendent of Schools

**Melissa I. Szymanski**

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

**Maureen Caraballo**

Business Official & Treasurer

July 23, 2020

Dear Hastings Families,

Thank you for participating in this week's community forum. If you were unable to join because of the limited capacity available in Zoom, the recording of the forum and the presentation are available on our school reopening webpage. In the future, we will use Zoom webinar which has expanded capacity.

To enlist your feedback about the information shared at the community forum, three surveys, one for each school, have been created. Please complete a survey for each school that your child attends so that school administrators can easily review the responses for their school.

[Hillside Elementary School Survey on School Reopening](#)

[Farragut Middle School Survey on School Reopening](#)

[Hastings High School Survey on School Reopening](#)

These surveys will also be available on our website by tomorrow afternoon.

In addition to the surveys, an FAQ document is being prepared to respond to the questions asked at the community forum. Two questions of particular interest to some families are answered below.

Q1. If my child has an underlying medical condition making it unsafe for them to return to the campus, is there a virtual/remote-only option?

A1. Yes. Similar to how we currently support students who must stay at home for medical reasons, we will apply this model to the virtual/remote only option. Since live streaming can still occur when all students are in school, virtual/remote access to the classroom is possible. Similar to our current practice of offering tutoring services for children unable to attend school due to medical reasons, we may use a substitute teacher or a tutoring service to provide two hours of live virtual tutoring support. Google Classroom will still be used as a place to access the assignments, materials, and the link to Zoom or Google Meet. It is important for parents who want the virtual/remote only

option to contact your child's principal who will make these arrangements. We are currently testing the capacity to live stream and will share more details about what this will look like at the school-based community forums.

Q2. If my child and a few other families create a homeschool "pod", do we need to dis-enroll our children from the district, or are we allowed to keep them enrolled and also participate in virtual/remote only learning?

A2. You will be able to keep your child/children enrolled in the district and participate in virtual/remote only learning while also utilizing your homeschool "pod" program. However, you may homeschool your child/children which requires the completion of an Individualized Home Instruction Plan. If you would like more information about homeschooling, please contact Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, for assistance. It is important for parents who want the virtual/remote only option to contact your child's principal who will make these arrangements.

Our next community forum has been scheduled for August 11, 2020, from 4:30pm-6:30pm so that we have the latest information available after the Governor makes his decision the week of August 2-7. In addition, each school will also host a school-based community forum to address questions and concerns. The dates for these forums will be announced shortly by each school.

We realize that this is a difficult time for you. We want to be helpful and reassure you that we are doing all that we can to safely reopen schools when the Governor makes his decision. It will be the Governor, not the Board of Education or me, who will make the decision about reopening schools. We will do our part to be ready to operationalize his decision. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or a school administrator.

Sincerely,

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte, Ed.D.