



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



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

August 6, 2020

Dear Hastings Families,

Updates will be made to our School Reopening Plan as needed based upon clarifications to existing information or new information from the Governor. Yesterday, I updated the information about mask-wearing during instruction in our plan and added it to the FAQ document on our website. Families and educators were concerned about children being allowed to remove their mask/face covering during instruction. After consulting with our legal counsel, we changed our language on page 17 in the [School Reopening Plan](#) to state that children will not be allowed to remove their masks during instruction. The question below has been added to our [School Reopening FAQ](#) document on our School Reopening page on our [website](#).

Q21. Why are children allowed to have their masks off during instruction?

A. On July 22, 2020, NYSED issued an FAQ document stating that districts can allow children to take off their masks during instruction **and** they may require children to keep their masks on during instruction. We will change the language in our School Reopening Plan to state that masks will **not** be allowed off during instruction. We understand the safety concerns that this raises for parents and educators. As stated in our School Reopening Plan, children can take their masks off to eat and for short breaks as long as they maintain appropriate social distancing.

In addition, a new question was added to the FAQ document about outdoor classrooms.

We will continue to listen to our families and District staff to ensure the safety of everyone in our schools. As of the writing of this update, we have not received any information from Governor Cuomo about his decision to reopen schools. When we do, we will inform the community.

Warm regards,

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte