

Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools



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Dear Hastings Families and Staff:

Let me start with appreciation. First for our staff and administrators, who have rolled with a challenging weekend and start to the week, making sure that students had a calm and productive day. Second for the security staff and the Hasting Police Department, who made themselves extra present and attentive to the safety and well-being of students and staff. Third for our families, who responded with patience to letters, emails and texts about the social media challenge of the past several days and our fundamental need to ensure school continues in a healthy and nurturing environment.

Now for important updates and reminders for tomorrow (Tuesday):

1. Lockout To Continue – We will continue the Lockout of all district facilities through the school day tomorrow (Tuesday). We had a smooth day across the district today. Given the extent of social media commentary, however, it is wise to continue a security tool (a Lockout), which allows us to have a normal school day within the buildings while limiting external access.
2. Hillside After School Programs Cancelled – As announced yesterday, all after-school and child care programs at Hillside have been cancelled for Monday-Wednesday.
3. FMS & HHS After School Programs Clarification – District programs (athletics, art, music, theater and clubs) will continue as scheduled, including the annual Project Share Dinner. Only non-district programs using FMS and HHS have been cancelled (those programs have been notified).

I have received many emails over the past two days, including a very large number today, about the future of gender lessons at Hillside. It is impossible for me to respond individually to the emails, so a group response is necessary. As noted in [yesterday's letter](#), we will be reviewing future lesson plans over the next couple of months, with updates to the Board of Education, providing ample opportunity for Hastings community feedback before any lessons are taught in the classroom. Let me be clear that the ultimate responsibility for the gender lessons rests with district leadership, not with individual classroom teachers. The professionals working directly with Hastings students deserve our collective respect and admiration for what they do each day to foster growth and learning.

I look forward to dignified and respectful discourse on an essential topic. Again, I appreciate your patience and support.

Thank you.

Bill

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