



November 10, 2020

### **Update: Grades 10-12 In-person Students Will Continue in Hybrid Model**

Dear Families, Colleagues, and Partners,

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work to provide our students with high-quality teaching and learning in a safe environment. I'm writing to share an update about the learning model for our students in grades 10-12. Though the district is shifting to "Orange" status on Nov. 16, we have decided to continue the hybrid learning model for these students.

Therefore, students learning in-person in **grades 10-12 will experience no change** in their schedule on November 16.

We have been working in close consultation with the Hartford Health Department. We assessed the size of our 10-12th grade classes, and since they contain 14 students or less, we will be able to maintain strict health and safety protocols, which include physical distancing of 6 feet. With students and staff engaged in online learning on Wednesdays, custodial staff can continue to clean and disinfect schools between in-person learning sessions. These mitigation measures can help reduce the risk of potential viral transmission in our schools. Furthermore, continuing to provide in-person learning helps ensure that our students receive the high-quality teaching and supports they need to be successful, all in a safe environment.

#### **Health, Safety, and Well-being**

As a reminder, we still need all our families to continue to screen their child for illness before in-person school days, using our [Daily Home Screening](#) checklist. Please keep your child home if your child has any symptoms and contact the school nurse immediately. Also, keep your child home and inform your child's school if *anyone* in your household is: awaiting COVID-19 test results, receives a positive test result, or if your family has been contacted by the health department about a potential exposure.

Please call your school's nurse or social worker to learn more. You may also call the HPS Health Services Hotline at 860-695-8760.

#### **Daily Attendance Expectations**

Attendance is a top priority. When children miss school, they miss out on the opportunity to learn from their teachers and peers, and they may fall behind.

Attendance will be taken daily for your child on both in-person and remote learning days. On remote learning days, attendance will primarily be taken during live sessions with teachers. Please support your child in following their normal school schedule and logging into live sessions. If a live session is not offered on a particular day or if your child is not able to attend that day's live session, the teacher will use other work completed to determine remote attendance. Attendance during remote learning will be

resolved the day after each school day to accommodate those children who may need to complete their work outside of school hours.

When your child is ill or if there is an emergency that prevents them from participating in school work that day, please call or email the school at (860) 695-9800, [anjali.sabade@hartfordschools.org](mailto:anjali.sabade@hartfordschools.org) to report the absence.

Here are a few tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- On in person days:
  - Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are truly sick (fever, throwing up, diarrhea).
  - Talk to your child's teacher or counselor for advice if your child is feeling anxious about going to school.
  - Develop backup plans for getting your child to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.
- On remote learning days:
  - Help your child participate in remote learning from a quiet location in your home that is free of distraction.
  - Remind your child to charge their laptop so it's ready for learning each day.
  - Ensure your child participates at the assigned scheduled time unless they are truly sick.
- Talk to your child's teacher if you have any concerns about your child's needs.

### Access to Technology

To ensure every HPS student has a high-quality learning experience, HPS provides devices to all children who do not have access to a personal device at home. Please complete one of the surveys below:

- My child needs a device: To request a device, go to <http://bit.ly/hpsdevicerequest>
- My child has a device, but needs support fixing it or connecting to learning resources: Go to <http://bit.ly/hpsdevicesupport>

If you need support using the device and connecting to learning, please contact Ms. Erika Blozie at the school as soon as possible at (860) 695-9800 xt 9876, [bloze001@hartfordschools.org](mailto:bloze001@hartfordschools.org).

### Our Students Must Continue to Learn

Having your child remain engaged and safe in-person and in remote learning is of utmost importance to your child's success. To facilitate the delivery of instruction through live remote instruction and safeguard student privacy and confidentiality as appropriate and to the extent required by applicable law, the District requires that students and parents/guardians of students adhere to the following **Rules and Guidelines for Participation in Live Remote Instruction**:

- Parents/guardians and students are **prohibited from audio recording, video recording or photographing video-conferencing sessions** (including participants in such sessions) in any manner, unless otherwise determined by an individual student's Planning and Placement Team or Section 504 Team to provide the student with a free appropriate public education.

- Individuals present in the home other than the student are not permitted to participate in or be visible on the videoconference, or otherwise observe the lesson, other than reasonable adult supervision of the student, and except as otherwise permitted by the Hartford Board of Education's policy and administrative regulations regarding classroom visitation and observation.
- Students participating in videoconferencing from remote locations must join the videoconference on time, dress appropriately, and follow all rules and guidelines established by the teacher.
- All participating individuals must comply with relevant Hartford Board of Education policies and administrative regulations.

Our Superintendent, Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez was committed to starting the school year offering an in-person option for our students and families, based on state guidance and family preferences and needs. As we prepare for the shift to Orange on Monday, November 16, we do so with the continued commitment to in-person learning as the best option for many of our students.

We will continue to monitor the data and work with the Health Department. District administration is currently evaluating the options for maintaining physical distancing in all classrooms for daily in-person learning.

If the data and guidance, along with our ability to maintain physical distancing, indicate that we can return to daily in-person learning for families who choose that option, we will re-evaluate our plans and communicate a decision about our learning models to the community.

Circumstances around the pandemic continue to evolve and change rapidly and future shifts in our learning models may require us to adjust quickly as we move forward. We are grateful for your patience, flexibility, and support.

Please contact our school directly at (860) 695-9800 if you have any questions or concerns.

Graciously,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Ferguson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Kitsia H. Ferguson

Principal