

July 28, 2020

Dear Hope-Hill Families,

Our New Teachers reported today, and our return staff reports on Monday, 8/3. As we continue to plan, I want to share some of the information about how virtual instruction for the first 9 weeks will be stronger and more consistent than it was in March, April, and May.

- The first day of school for students was pushed from August 10 to August 24. We will have ALL virtual instruction for the first 9 weeks/Quarter 1 with opportunities to revisit/revise after that.
- The school calendar for students will be reduced from 180 days to 170 days and the last day of school in May has not been changed.
- Teacher schedules for virtual instruction will be standardized/uniform across all grade levels for consistency of experience and to allow families to plan their time/childcare, etc. Differentiation will still occur in small groups.
- Class lists and grade level schedules will be posted on the outside doors of the school building on August 5th by 3:00 p.m.
- Susanna Roberts, Parent Liaison, will be hosting a **Town Hall for parents** on August 6th at 12:00 p.m. This will be a general information session for questions and answers. Zoom Links will be sent directly to you from Susanna Roberts and/or Karen Shacham.
- I will be hosting **Parent Zoom Meetings by Grade Level** to review student schedules, class lists, and have Q & A sessions. Please join me for these parent meetings, so I can introduce you to the teachers and answer questions. See the schedule below. Zoom Links will be sent directly to you from Susanna Roberts and/or Karen Shacham.

Monday, August 10th

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Pre-K

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Kdg

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – 1st grade

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – 2nd grade

Thursday, August 13th

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – 3rd grade

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – 4th grade

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – 5th grade

- Teacher resources for virtual instruction will be standardized/uniform as well. APS has purchased the following Content Management Systems and Online Engagement Tools for this purpose:
 - Google G Suite for Educators (Google Classroom, Forms, etc.)
 - ZOOM (Premium) This will be the tool we use for all meetings and virtual instruction.
 - FRECKLE (K-5th - Content Management System that differentiates instruction across Math, ELA, Social Studies and Science) www.freckle.com
 - Nearpod (K-12)
 - STAR
 - Accelerated Reader
- Virtual school will be as close to live school as possible and we will consider the following:
 - Increased amount of time students will spend in virtual instruction - grade level dependent
 - Increased amount of time for teacher-led instruction in all content areas
 - Increased student self-efficiency in navigating a virtual world
 - Building parent capacity via a Hope-Hill Parent University to help guide and troubleshoot through virtual platforms
- Teachers will have posted "office hours" on a consistent basis across grade levels.

- Teachers will be given the choice to teach "virtually" from their classroom in the school. This will allow them access to all of their classroom resources as well as school resources.
- ESOL and Gifted will be included in the new schedule.
- SPED support services will be included in the new schedule. APS and HHES will continue to implement services and make decisions based on the best interests of individual students and their unique needs. We will continue to adhere to principles set forth in the IDEA by meeting the individualized needs of students and providing meaningful participation for parents. The district will implement virtual learning for our students with disabilities, just as we would during normal school operations.
- Specials such as Art, Music, PE, SEL and Spanish will be included in the new schedule.
- APS has partnered with Comcast to launch the Get Our Kids Connected campaign to support low-income families. Eligible families will receive 12 months of free high-speed internet and/or a device that they can keep forever. For more information please visit <https://tinyurl.com/GOKCform>
- APS will begin providing students MEALS on Monday, August 10th - more details to come.
- APS will provide PPE and temperature check equipment when we return in person.
- All persons must wear masks to enter the school for any reasons until further notice. No exceptions.

There are still a number of things that we need to work through but I am confident that we will be able to send you a more detailed plan as our administrative team and teachers return from summer break. We will be looking at the a plan for the distribution of Virtual Starter Kits from homeroom teachers, and device distribution for children who need it. **This will be done the week of August 17th. You will be contacted by your child's teacher to schedule a time for an individual Meet and Greet and supply pick up time.**

What is a Virtual Starter Kit? A Virtual Starter Kit contains a number of items that Hope-Hill students will need during virtual learning. A Virtual Starter Kit may contain grade level appropriate workbooks and textbooks that your child's teacher will use throughout the year. It may also contain dry erase boards or manipulatives.

We understand the importance of ensuring that our families know how to navigate our virtual reality. In order to feel prepared, we will host live personal trainings and recorded sessions for parents to teach you all you need to know about, Google Classroom and our Math & ELA Curriculum Online Resources. As soon as I get these dates scheduled I will share them with you.

In closing, please know that this is not ideal for any of us. Our teachers would rather be physically with your children because they care and love each one of them, but we also know that their safety and well-being, along with our teachers/staff safety and well-being, has to be our number one priority. We miss your kids and we look forward to seeing them, albeit virtually, in the coming weeks.

Continued good health to all of you, and I will be in touch with more information as it becomes available.

Maureen Wheeler