

PTSA Parent Meeting Minutes
Title 1 - Parent Engagement
Wednesday, September 30, 6:30-7:30PM

1. PTSA Announcements

- Tammy Black and Emma Sollars, FMS PTSA VPs, addressed the community and wished the students a speedy recovery who had been diagnosed with Covid. Ms. Sprielli shared the same sentiments with the community.
- Membership Drive - families encouraged to join the PTSA. All monies raised go back to HOH schools. Members will receive a PTSA calendar when joining at <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/hoh-ptsa-membership-2020-21>
- Members of the community are encouraged to reach out to the FMS VPs throughout the school year. The FMS VPs can help to direct communication appropriately and facilitate dialogue between the school administrators and parents. They can be reached at:

tblack@ptsahastings.org
esollars@ptsahastings.org

- The WAY, a drug and alcohol youth prevention organization in HOH, is collaborating with other county organizations to offer free monthly virtual presentations for parents.
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WQ9zgJ1s1ftURi4oBiAh1spgAiOunMDd/edit>
- Kim Meisner, Co-President of HEF, spoke about the COVID-19 Response Fund. Families that wish to can donate to the fund where donations will be allocated to the strategic use of outdoor spaces to support physical distancing measures; to procure web-based resources that support student engagement, collaboration, and creativity; to augment current social-emotional learning curriculum and practices; and to provide access to on-going professional learning to strengthen remote instruction. Donations to the pandemic response fund will help support all of Hastings students.
<https://www.hohschools.org/cms/lib/NY01913703/Centricity/Domain/1213/covidresponsefund%20flyer%20rfs.pdf>
- The next Superintendent's Chat will take place on October 21, 2020. A link to send questions in will be provided to the community in the days leading up to October 21.

- The online Spirit Wear Store closed on September 30 at 8:00PM.

2. SEPTA Announcements

- SEPTA memberships are available on SEPTA site.
- SEPTA FMS VPs are Liz Heilakka and Anne Runyan and can be reached at Hastings.SEPTA@gmail.com.
- SEPTA gifted a clear face mask to each staff member to encourage clear mask wearing. Community members are encouraged to purchase one for their own use or they can buy one for a faculty member.
<https://hastingssepta.memberhub.store/shopping/categories/1513>

3. Administrative Announcements

- Staffing - Ms. Spirelli reported that there were seven faculty positions that required staffing replacements at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. All positions except one have been filled with leave replacements or with other teachers from FMS/HHS. Hopefully the teacher will return shortly so all positions will be filled soon.
- Hybrid Learning
 - Mr. Hanlon reported that having the students back in the building has brought FMS to life again. Teachers are more comfortable with the technology and it is becoming more streamlined. Teachers are gaining more access to platforms such as Nearpod and EdPuzzle. One issue when Hybrid learning started was that students at home couldn't hear questions asked by kids in class. Teachers are learning to repeat questions so that the kids at home can hear - this is not necessarily a traditional teaching best practice, so there is some retraining on how to adapt in the hybrid model. These kinds of changes are taking place and improving the experience for children.
 - Ms. Spirelli reported some statements that the students made during the first week of hybrid learning:
 - "I'm just so thrilled to see other students."
 - "Wearing a mask isn't so bad; it's just different."
 - "My mom makes better lunch than school anyway."

- Lunch/Recess - tents should be arriving soon to keep kids dry on rainy days. The current tents that are being used are smaller. Currently FMS Administration is looking at ways to make recess more engaging and looking into ways to open the playground and/or use materials on the blacktop. Monitors are reminding kids to socially distance at lunch and recess. The FMS Auditorium is used for recess on rainy days. Students are socially distanced and have masks on. There is no eating allowed in the Auditorium during recess since masks are on.
 - The PE Department is looking at ways to engage students while remote and are brainstorming about ways to improve PE instruction virtually. At this time, students will be outside as much as possible during PE which will prioritize the students who are in the building.
 - Covid Screener - parents urged to complete the daily Covid Screener either through the app or the web based form. Ms. Spireli noted that while she appreciated some student's independence, she asked that parents complete the screen not students.
 - Mask breaks are structured by the teacher's discretion. Please reach out to any teacher for clarification.
- Flex Day Expectations
 - Flex Days begin with student's Advisory, which will hopefully last year to year and is geared toward SEL check-ins, anti bias conversations, current events, and an opportunity for student's voices to be heard.
 - Flex Wednesdays are an opportunity for students to meet with teachers for feedback, assistance, and support.
 - Students are invited by their teachers if there is a need for support or enrichment. These invites can either be via email or verbal.
 - Each class has a Week at a Glance in Google Classroom and students can see what their assignments are for each day.
 - Ms. Spirelli acknowledged concerns expressed by some parents that the first Flex Wednesday did not go as smoothly as planned. Teachers are working on improving the experience so that children are truly benefitting from the full day of asynchronous learning on

Flex Wednesdays. There will be more improvements forthcoming, as the Remote Learning Committee current focus is Flex Wednesdays.

- Academic Coaching
 - This is available daily from 2:45-3:15 for all students. Academic coaching is an opportunity for students to receive support and feedback.
 - Academic Coaching is virtual this year but students are able to be in the classroom with the teacher they would like to meet with if they chose to. All students will use their Chromebook for Coaching, whether at home or in person.
 - All students are encouraged to make use of this time. They are also encouraged to keep a weekly schedule so they attend multiple classes for Academic Coaching throughout the week.

- Questions from the Community
 - A parent asked about the protective shields students are carrying with them throughout the day. Ms. Spirelli explained that the shields are 24 inch x 24 inch 3-way barriers. The front is clear and the sides are opaque. Ms. Spirelli also noted that some students are finding them a bit annoying but are utilizing them. At this time, she is unsure if all clear dividers will be purchased. Barriers can be brought home for an evening if a student would like to make modifications to it.
 - A parent inquired about communications with parents about clubs and extracurricular activities. Ms. Spirelli reported that parents should continue to read the Hastings Daily and there will be monthly newsletters from FMS. At this time, all extracurricular activities are on hold and they will be starting soon. Information is forthcoming.
 - A parent asked about communication during class with remote students and their ability to feel included and part of the class. Ms. Spirelli responded by explaining that there has been a learning curve for teachers to get comfortable with the technology. Some teachers are feeling more able to interact with students in their

classroom and students who are remote at the same time, while others are taking time to fully engage remote learners. Ms. Spirelli also said that teachers were not instructed to “ignore” students at home. She also encouraged families to reach out to their child’s teachers to give feedback, as teachers are receptive and reflective.

Next FMS PTSA Meeting: 11/9/20

Questions? Please reach out to either of your FMS PTSA VPs with questions or comments.

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