

HHS Parent Meeting Minutes 10/15/20

1. Introducing Ms. Wendy White, new member of the High School Counseling Office. She began on October 1st. She joined us at the meeting to say hello. Introductory letter can be found here https://docs.google.com/document/d/12gS7OXLSAcmcROjV0ytQc_bf8FIO-DhxiCR7JSahHw/edit.
2. Health procedures:
 - a. Administration requests that the health questionnaire be filled out by 7 am on the days your child will be in school. The regulation stipulates that all calls to families who have not completed it need to be made before school starts at 8:15. Ms Hardesty has assumed responsibility for the task, and the timing is extremely tight. If you are a bit late filling it out, it is not the end of the world, but it creates challenges.
 - b. The school had occasion last week to practice all procedures in preparation for contact tracing. This is an extremely time-consuming process and detracts from time for other work. ***Please do not send your child into school with any symptoms listed on the health questionnaire.*** In addition to the health risks, this puts undue burden on the school administration by leading to time spent in the contact tracing process when it could be spent on other things.
 - c. Kids are doing a great job following all procedures in school. Off school grounds, there have been reports of violations of social distancing. Mr. Adipietro asks for parents' help to help maintain social distancing. (letter from 10/8 can be found here https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OJ2aDmJK3QDJdDI_d9t_8liFeD5KyZ4e3N5DjefZk-8/edit)
 - d. The number of students doing all-remote learning has doubled to ~90 students.
3. Health policies
 - a. The barriers that students carry around are considered optional, but available if students want them. New barriers have been installed in some of the classrooms.
 - b. Masks are absolutely required. Lunch on a rainy day is a challenge, but it's been managed.
4. Academic expectations
 - a. Flex Wednesday: Remote learning team is obtaining feedback about how Flex Wednesdays are going. Staff received a survey first, then parents, then students. Please remind your children to fill out the survey. Informal feedback (before the data from the survey) has been that there is too much busy work, and too much work. HHS is in discussion in the Remote Learning Committee to see if Flex Wed can be reviewed or revised. The committee will make recommendations to the Superintendent and Ms. Szymanski and to the BOE.
 - b. Even if Flex Wednesday changes, Mr. Adipietro is interested in continuing the Advisory Period. It is consistent with the goals of Challenge Success to have a place where kids can have a place to talk. It is hoped that this is the start of developing an advisory program for HHS. [Challenge Success is a Stanford education program that HHS has worked with to consider how to manage stress in high school. More information about the program is here: <https://www.challengesuccess.org/>.

- c. Academic Coaching is available every day 2:45-3:15. Some Wednesdays there is a staff meeting. On-site kids can go visit the teacher in the classroom. Remote kids can join the link for their teacher. Let Mr. Adipietro know if the links are not happening.
- d. There has been no change or discussion of grading policy, yet. For now, regular grading policies hold. There are challenges in assessing kids in remote learning. There is ongoing discussion about new ways to conduct assessments, increase narrative assessments, think creatively.
- e. Attendance: there has been a recent change in the coding system for attendance to allow for contact tracing, to be clear about whether a student was remote present vs on-site present. If you are not supposed to be remote, then you are expected to be present on-site. This is important for the sake of contact tracing. If you are ill, it needs to be clear that you were not present on-site. You should still attend the class, and this will be dealt with in some other way. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rU3hjhMHjY-Z14r3SXkMe8z4MiWOrUImqHIG-VcGE3U/edit>

PTSA Announcements

Presented by Linda Fosina, Coalition Coordinator for the WAY (Working Alliance for Youth), Hastings drug and alcohol prevention program. This is a group of concerned citizens in Hastings, together with local police, HHS social worker, and others. They meet monthly, and have two upcoming programs:

1. Virtual Monthly Parent Support Group: Wednesday, Oct. 28: Covid 19 & PADJ: How to Manage Your Teens Healthy Desire to Socialize During the Pandemic

High School parents and mental health professionals, psychologist Amy Colley and social worker Jennifer Leff, lead this monthly virtual support group for Hastings parents.

2. K.N.O.W 2 Prevent Monthly Virtual Speaker Series

Westchester County organizations (including the Westchester PTA) are collaborating to offer FREE monthly virtual presentations by nationally-recognized experts. Speakers will focus on issues relevant to parents now and be a resource to ALL Westchester families so that they can learn together. The next event is <https://www.know2prevent.org/2020-2021-speaker-series/>

I Am One and I Make One Choice for Health A Data-Informed, Youth-Driven Prevention Message for parents **October 20 7:00 - 8:30pm via Zoom** To register and for more information [CLICK HERE](#).

PTSA website is ptsahastings.org. At that website you can join the PTSA – our membership drive is still going on. With your membership you get the coveted PTSA calendar. Please join.

The PTSA, along with SPETA and HEF are supporting the COVID Relief Fund to help the district defray additional costs associated with returning to school in times of COVID. Please consider donating. The link can be found on our website.

The New Book Fair will be virtual this year. And happening around 11/9. Look out for an announcement. The great part of it being virtual is that you can ship your purchases anywhere!

PTSA has changed our structure this year. We have two VPs for each school, in addition to two presidents and people in charge of specific areas like fundraising, communications, grants, etc. We are always looking for volunteers, for small tasks or for larger tasks. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you're interested in volunteering.