



Minutes, January 25, 2021

HHS COVID19 Update

HHS has had fewer cases than the other district schools. An individual at HHS did test positive for COVID19 on 1/22. As a result of the positive case on Friday, 9 students and no staff were affected. To facilitate contact tracing, the teachers are taking screenshots or making charts of where each student is sitting.

Please continue to be vigilant with out-of-school behavior/hanging out. If an individual tests positive for COVID19 and they were not physically in the school, the DOH would be contacted, and they will conduct the contact tracing. In general, the school nurse is made aware of these cases by the DOH. She is in extremely close contact with the DOH. Communication will come from the school, however, only if the student who tests positive was in school.

New regulations have been released that make contact tracing a bit more difficult. They give more latitude to the teachers to determine if someone in a class is a contact. Class density is very low, particularly in the higher grades. Given the new regulations, if there is a positive case in a classroom, the entire class may not have to quarantine.

Peer Leadership – Jeff Conwisar

Mr. Conwisar provided a presentation about the Peer Leadership (“PL”) program. PL is a program to provide peer mentorship to 9th graders by selected 12th graders. The program has been in existence for 20 years and was based on a program from Princeton University. Many local districts have the program.

Seniors who are chosen as Peer Leaders (“PLs”) participate in a leadership course focusing on small group facilitation. These students run meetings for a small group of 9th graders. There are 12 groups with two PLs each - so 24 seniors who are assigned in pairs to about a dozen 9th grade students. The curriculum for the small groups comes from the Princeton program and initially includes ice-breakers and group dynamics, etc. Then, they cover topics such as the “tone of school” and “planning for the future.” This year, PL groups have been arranged in green/gold cohorts. The green PL groups meet during lunch on Tuesday; the gold groups meet during lunch on Thursday. These are remote meetings.

The senior PLs are trained to contact an adult whenever they are worried about someone, not to handle situations themselves. Faculty advisors provide training in how to handle specific issues that may arise.

There is an event for 9th grade parents to meet the PLs and experience the group with their child. Typically this occurs in November. This year, the event is tentatively scheduled for 2/10/21. Please be on the lookout for details. Parents will access the meet through their student's PL link in Classroom. If they don't have the "meet the PLs" part, they will at least distribute short bios about the PLs, who are a particularly impressive group this year.

Leave Status Update

Robin Royal (English and Special Education Dept.) is on leave. She plans to return on Monday 2/1, on a part time basis (mornings only). She will teach 3 out of 5 of her assigned classes. The other classes have been assigned to certified teachers.

Dan Brownstein (Advanced Geology) is on leave. He is on leave until the end of February, but he may extend. Given the uncertainty, the elective Advanced Geology which was planned for Spring semester has been canceled. There is no one else on staff certified to teach that course. The 11 students registered will get first priority if they want to take it next year.

HHS Full Remote Status – Update

There are 247 HHS kids who have elected full remote status as of this morning. Per Dr. Henning-Piedmonte, full remote can be extended until February 26th.

If you are going to extend your remote status, PLEASE email Melissa Hardesty (HardestyM@hohschools.org). Keeping your status accurate with the school is necessary for contact tracing. Remote status decisions should be made at a minimum for a week at a time. Tremendous effort is required by the school to update across different systems whether students are on-site, etc. If you are going to end your remote status and return to hybrid PLEASE also inform Ms. Hardesty.

If families make these decisions daily, it creates a tremendous amount of labor for multiple people at the school. For example, at the end of each day, the Superintendent has to send an attendance report to NYS. This report influences our funding from the State.

If you are a remote learner and your child needs to come in to school for any reason, you **must** complete the screener in the morning, and your child **must** sign-in at the office. Accurate information is necessary for accurate contact tracing.

A survey was sent to all full-remote students asking grade level and why they have chosen full-remote. Answer options were: personal safety, family safety, social (friends) or another reason. Results will be analyzed. If your child is fully remote, please encourage them to fill out this survey.

Teacher Technology Issues – Feedback and Protocol

Some technology issues have continued. If you are aware of any issues in your child's classes, please inform the administration. These problems can often be solved.

In a science (Physics) classroom, it was determined that the smartboard was no longer working. The school has ordered new interactive tvs, which are being installed this week.

If you have any specific complaints, reach out to the teacher directly, or to the Department Chair, or school administration (Ms. Hardesty), or your child's counselor. Professional development can be provided and/or additional technology can be provided, if needed.

SAT School Day – April 27, 2021 - and UPDATES from the COLLEGE BOARD

The school has arranged an on-site SAT for juniors. There has been significant interest. Communication was released today to the juniors about how to sign up. Details for safe administration are being worked out.

Changes from the College Board include discontinuation of subject area tests for SAT, and elimination of the essay portion of SAT. It is expected that these changes will persist.

Student Mental Health

There is a Student Support Services site on the HHS website ([Student Support Services](#)) located under Departments. The school has a full time social worker (Chris Repp) and a psychologist (Gloria Szeszko, PhD). They are here for your kids. Please reach out if you have any concerns about your child.

The PTSA has compiled a number of resources which we hope will be helpful to you in supporting your childrens' mental health. They are located on the PTSA website: [Mental Health Resources](#).

Guidance Updates

Check out the new Counselor's Corner newsletter! This resource is full of information about upcoming deadlines, class scheduling procedures, and resources for each grade. It will be updated seasonally. It can be found here: [Counselor's Corner](#)

Also coming soon will be a Road Map from Guidance, to help you know what to expect from the department and when to expect it.

HHS Racial Equity Day - Jan 27th

This is a new event for HHS. Parents, you are welcome to watch over your child's shoulder, but please do *not* log in to the webinar separately! There are a limited number of "seats" for the webinar, and if parents log in you are taking away webinar seats from the students. Details about how the day will run have been provided to your students and can be found here: [Racial Equity Day](#)

PTSA Bylaws

A presentation was made regarding some organizational changes to the PTSA bylaws. It passed.

PTSA Announcements

Pizza fundraiser deadline is 1/31. If you purchased vouchers from Pizza Grill and Slices please use them before then. This fundraiser was done to replace Pizza Fridays and was well received. A second round will be announced. Please look out for information.

The PTSA is forming a Nominating Committee and we need three parents, hopefully one from each school, to be a part of the committee. Please email the PTSA (hohptsa@ptsahastings.org) if interested or if you are interested in being on the Board. More information about us can be found on our website: [PTSA](#).

SEPTA Announcements

There will be a FMS Community Conversation on January 27th at 6:30. The link will be provided.

There will be an IEP Review meeting covering all grades and all schools on 2/25. The time is to be determined. Please be on the lookout for more details.

HASTINGS WAY Coalition

SCREENAGERS NEXT CHAPTER: Uncovering Skills for Stress Resilience is available for viewing. Please see the link in the Daily under HHS. The link is available only through Wednesday and then Wednesday evening there will be a discussion led by: Amy J. Colley, Ph.D., Addiction Psychologist; Terry Frank, LCSW, Farragut Middle School Social Worker; JoAnn Reed-Stokes, MS, CPP, Director of Youth Services; and Christina Repp, LCSW, Hastings High School Social Worker. Here is a link to the flyer: [Screenagers](#)

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is March 22nd, at 6:30 P.M. Please email us if you have any topics you'd like included on the agenda.

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