

Horn Parent Orientation Meeting- Q&As

September 4, 2020

Question	Answer
How is it verified we have completed the course? It did not ask for a name.	You are correct, there is not a place to put your name. This is just HIGHLY suggested to complete in order to understand the platforms. Thank you for taking the time to complete the course!
Do you expect a 5-year old kindergarten child navigate the apps?	Teachers will be spending time with their students during the first week of instruction to help them learn how to navigate the HUB.
How do you judge children with grades if they are not used to interact virtually via the teachers and his friends through teams or other chats?	This will take some time to get used to for all of us. We will spend time in homerooms and classes discussing student expectations and helping the students navigate the platforms.
What are the expectations to the parents to be present? It seems that we need to be present all the time to help them navigate the tools. My son does not even know how to turn on a computer. What are the recommendations and expectations?	We do not have an expectation. I think this will be a learning curve for all of us, so a little support at the beginning will be useful.
How are small groups determined?	The teachers will use data points to create these groups.
Will the chat feature be turned off?	The district has been working closely with Microsoft Teams this summer to make this a beneficial experience for all students. At this time, they do not have a way to disable the chat feature.
Is it possible to switch to Zoom? Microsoft team is messed up at the first day.	HISD has said that we will only be using Microsoft TEAMS. They want to streamline all applications.
My child does not speak or understand English and i do not know what to do?	Your child will be placed with a teacher that that is certified to teach English Learners and use strategies that offer that support.
When we resume activities on campus, will all students be required to wear (i) face masks and face shields or just face masks?	Yes, the district's instructional continuity plan states that all students must wear a facial covering when we return to campus.
Does the requirement to wear a "facial covering" mean both face mask and face shield?	No, just a face mask.

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When we tried to download and install Microsoft 365 on our laptop, it stated that our subscription does not allow installation, only online application use	The HUB will house all the student's digital resources using a single sign-on so that students can easily access the applications available to them.
Is there any way to have access to download and install the software so we can have the icons on the desktop and our child can just click to run them?	The HUB will house all the student's digital resources using a single sign-on so that students can easily access the applications available to them.
Can we MINIMIZE the number of systems these very young children need to navigate?	We will use two platforms: TEAMS and the HUB (can we MINIMIZE the number of systems these very young children need to navigate?
We got the digital resources packet and some of the apps don't work for us? Will that be reviewed again?	Some apps may not be up just yet. If they are not working next week, let us know.
Can we just access Microsoft Teams through the app?	You can download the Teams app to your desktop if you would like.
Is there any way to have access to download and install the software so we can have the icons on the desktop and our child can just click to run them?	The HUB will house all the student's digital resources using a single sign-on so that students can easily access the applications available to them.
Can we just access Microsoft Teams through the app?	yes!
I think the obvious issue for many of us is working full time and still somehow stay with the kids while remote learning. My children don't stay engaged if I'm not constantly monitoring them. Any suggestions? Will they be penalized if they can't stay engaged throughout the day?	Yes, this is something we struggle with too! There will both live lessons and independent work that can be completed throughout the day. No, students will not be penalized for not being engaged. We hope we create lessons and activities that do engage them! They will have graded work to complete.
Pre-K virtual classes were one hour, kids got bored. Is it realistic for small kids to sit from 7:30 to 2:10? what about kids with working parents that cannot sit all day with the kid?	Live lessons will be taught in 20-minute sessions throughout all grade levels. Teachers will go over this Friday during meet the teacher.

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So, HUB replaces google classroom?	That's correct. The HUB will now house all the student's assignments and resources.
From experience this last spring, it would be better to receive the week schedule prior to Monday each week, that would allow parents get ready in advance. Is it possible to change that?	I know many teachers will send it out early, but the expectation is Monday morning. The schedule will never change, so that will be consistent.
What does she mean by "in the loom"?	Loom is an online platform we used for the welcome and virtual schedule videos that Mrs. Flores shared via LivingTree.
How early each week...will each of these 2 Week per Subject Projects be communicated to each Student? We need as much time as possible to juggle these.	All assignments will be noted in the Week at a Glance document so that families have an overview of exactly what will be expected of students to complete each week.
Is Horn or HISD aware that through the Chat function, a student can merely type in a person's name and the student can then chat with any other student/staff/faculty member regardless of age and grade level? For example, a 4th grader can send a chat message to an 11th grader at another campus!	yes, we sent that concern to the district multiple times. They are working with Microsoft.
Will the Meet the Teachers sessions be recorded (parent's session)? I have a child in PK and one in K and they are at the same time.	yes, they will
Will the "morning meeting" roll into the first lesson plan? Or do they need to click on a separate link for the 1st lesson?	It depends on the grade level. Teachers will review how to access the links during meet the teacher.
What is the deadline time to get assignments complete?	Students will have until 11:59pm the same day for class assignments.
<p>"Loom" Video from Principal Flores: https://www.loom.com/share/89335ee1eb854d9ea814a5cef6e4f60d</p>	
How early each week...will each of these 2 Week per Subject Projects be communicated to	This will be part of the "week at a glance" that will be submitted by Monday morning of the week.

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each Student? We need as much time as possible to juggle these.	
How will GT/Vanguard curriculum be taught and delivered?	The district has purchased Renzulli Learning for GT students to use during virtual learning. Parents of GT students will be getting more information about how GT students can access Renzulli in the coming days. At this time, the district is working through a few kinks with Renzulli. As soon as that is corrected, teachers will be sharing that information with you.
Is that possible to see the teacher in school, if there is any problem?	Teachers will have a conference time to meet with parents virtually. We will not be meeting in person during this time.
How can I access to the HUB?	Students received a digital resources page at curbside pickup. The directions are listed there. We also have help on the Horn website under the Horn 2.0 section.
Does a student need to attend all daily live sessions to be counted as present or attending one will count as present too?	They can attend a live meeting or complete asynchronous learning in the Hub.
Do we have to get loom?	No. Loom is the platform that was used to create the welcome and virtual schedule videos. All you need to do is click on the link provided for the videos to open.
Is the attendance taken first thing in the morning or at each class? What happens if we lose connection in between due to internet or other issues?	Each class and on the hub for independent work. We can reconcile attendance if there is a loss of connection.
How will the school's IT support help our students?	You can contact our IT representative through email.
Where should the student log in? Microsoft teams?	Students will log-in to Microsoft Teams to attend live meetings. Teachers will be sending students invitations to attend those meetings. All assignments will be completed through the HUB.
For late work/sick student, what will be the late work policy should the student forget? Sick kiddos who can't complete work? Etc. What will the numerical penalty be?	the teacher will work with the student and the situation

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You said above that there would only be 2 platforms but now we are talking about Google!? That was what was hard last Spring....too many platforms and apps. ...and all teachers were different.	Teachers will post google forms and such on the hub. All assignments and resources will be able to be accessed from the hub.
Will our student need to be present at both the 10AM and 2:30PM attendance taking?	No, if they are present at one of the attendance check-ins. They will be doing asynchronous work at 2:30pm.
Will Teams and the Hub both work on an iPad, or will we need a certain type of device?	Yes, they will work on iPad. if they are told to might have some trouble accessing.
How will the administration handle GT testing this year? I would like my child to be tested to qualify.	The district's GT department is still exploring options for GT testing this year. As soon as we learn what the plan is, we will share that information with you.
Will Teams and the Hub both work on an iPad, or will we need a certain type of device?	yes, it should work on an iPad.
To confirm, if parent attends with child at first morning meeting, then nothing further is needed re attendance for rest of day?	that is correct, but we hope you will attend more!
We were scanning and uploading school work during the virtual learning last year. Will there be nothing other than HUB assignments to complete this time?	All work will be through the HUB.
Will the UIL be held this year?	We will have to get back to you on this. Please reach out to us again.
Will the teacher be able to view if they attended live / virtual?	Yes.
Please confirm whether a parent is required to attend the video meeting, or whether an adult caretaker may attend?	Parents are not required to attend the video meetings.
Who should we email if we would like to have a child tested for any learning disabilities or ADHD?	Evan Grossman. We do not test for ADHD.
We have 2 kids, grade 1 and grade 2. One parent will be keeping an eye on them. Do you	Headphones is a great idea! Just make sure it has a microphone so that they can share and speak to the teacher.

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expect or recommend the kids to wear earphones for the classes? Any other recommendations for this situation?	
How will the administration handle GT testing this year? I would like my child to be tested to qualify.	The district is still exploring options for GT testing. As soon as a formalized plan is announced, we will share that information with you.
Do you yet know if GT testing will be conducted for all kindergarten students as it is usually?	The district is still exploring options for GT testing. As soon as they have a formalized plan, we will share that with you.
How much parents involve in the daily class of the kids, especially the young kids?	Every child is different. Our teachers are working hard to create live lessons that will keep them engaged. They are all short live lessons. Once students are on, the teachers will be teaching.
Is there any grace as Virtual Learning starts during the first week of school with obvious additional assistance from the teachers...or does this all go live Day 1 and everyone will just make mistakes and learn as they go?	Oh yes! Please give us grace too! We are all working together. The teachers are going to spend time with the students making sure they know how to access the Hub and everything they need.
How will the GT curriculum be taught?	The district has purchased Renzulli Learning for GT students to use during virtual learning. Parents of GT students will be getting more information about how GT students can access Renzulli in the coming days. At this time, the district is working through a few kinks with PowerSchool. As soon as that is corrected, teachers will be sharing that information with you.
If school resumes but the parents are uncomfortable having kids attend in person does the online option remain?	Yes, the district will still offer an online option for families when school resumes in person in mid-October.
Are homework/assignments after 2:30pm loaded into the HUB for parents to access/kids to complete?	All assignments will be in the HUB before 2:30pm.
Will there be lunch breaks, and will the kids be able to have recess?	Yes, all students will have a lunch break at recess break.
Is this session being recorded and will it be shared?	We will share the PowerPoint

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Is there a dress code for online?	No, but we ask that is appropriate for virtual school.
How will the STAAR tests be taken place?	TEA will provide more guidance as to how STAAR will occur this winter.
Two portals are four portals, Teams, HUB, Parent Connect, and Living Tree?	Teams and HUB are student portals. LivingTree and Parent Connect are Parent portals.
Quick question about digital password. Who do we contact if we did not receive one?	Please call the school during business hours and we will have you come pick it up.
When will teams be updated with current class? It still shows last year's class	Teachers are currently in the process of adding their students to their Teams classes.
I'm a mother of a 5th grader and want to know if Horn will help with middle school applications.	We do not assist with applications, but we will share what the district sends out for magnet programs.
At the end of the year - Do the Kinder Kids have STAR exam?	Kindergarten students do not take STAAR.
For the forms drop off, can there be an after-work hours option for working parents? or can we mail them to the school instead?	Yes, they can be mailed.
What happened to Google Classroom	The district has decided to strictly use the HUB in order to streamline assignments and resources in a single space.
I do understand that HISD is making calls as to whether kids want to stay virtual or in person later. Will Horn Elementary send out any online forms regarding the same?	At this point in time, the district is the sole entity collecting that information. We have not been told what roles - if any - schools will serve in collecting that information.
Are students required to take GT exams each year?	Only kindergarten and fifth grade take it, unless they are already identified.
Will this session be recorded?	We are hoping this session is recording and we hope to have an opportunity to share a link to the presentation with you.
Is the 'clever' app discontinued for HISD? We did not see the login info for it. Thank You	No, the single-sign on is still active.

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If they are already identified as GT. They are required to test again when they reach 5th grade. Is that understanding correct?	No, once a student is identified as GT they do not retest. GT students retain their GT label throughout their tenure in HISD if they remained enrolled in an HISD school.
How will the kids do ancillary and UIL?	Students will attend core enrichment like the way we do during the school year. Each grade level will rotate to an enrichment class each day. Teachers will be sharing more about this tomorrow at Meet the Teacher.
Thank you so much for all your hard work. We appreciate all your hard work and dedication to your students, families, and community during these crazy times. 🙏	Thank you!! We are grateful for you all and the support!
Will Teams, HUB, Parent Connect, and Living Tree with LINUX or Open source software?	Yes, it should work. HISD Platforms are web-based.
Are all these Questions and Answers (right here) from today's Horn Virtual Parent Orientation going to be made available after this Meeting?	We will put together a FAQ (Are all these Questions and Answers
If my kid is in Pre-K class now, does she need to wait to take GT test until she becomes a kindergartener? Thanks.	We do not participate in Entering Kindergarten GT testing at Horn. If you would like to have your child tested for GT this year, you will need to fill out an application in SmartChoice and arrange testing through a magnet school. Please visit the district's GT website for more information about this process.
Thank you. Would you happen to know when will SmartChoice start to register on-line this year?	I do not. I attended a GT training yesterday and was told they were hoping to launch the site in the coming weeks.
What is the loom that she has mentioned a few times?	There is a link in the chat.
Will this presentation be available after if I need to review? Thanks	We will post the PowerPoint.
What happens during recess?	This is unstructured time for the students to take a break inside or outside! We will share some fun movement activities.

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What is the LOOM?	Loom is a platform that was used to record the welcome and virtual schedules videos Mrs. Flores shared in her LivingTree post a few weeks ago.
Do we still buy school supplies? the link does not work (www.hornpto.org/horn-market)	The items purchased via Early Bird Market - When would we pick that up?
How do we log onto Teams??	The digital resources page students received at curbside has the information. They will use Office 365.
Are the Meet the Teacher sessions intended mostly for parents or children or both?	The first session is for parents with entire grade level and the second session is for students.
Will tardy be counted and how?	As long as students are engaged through live lessons and the HUB, they will be counted present.
If you miss the call from HISD about whether your kid will go back to school after 1st 6 weeks, is HISD going to call again?	Yes, I do believe you will have multiple contacts.
I was wondering if you can share the results on the parent survey that you send out a few months ago where we were asked about how we feel going back virtually or in person? We were asked to submit feedback but then did not get any feedback back from Horn. Will this be published at some point?	We will get back to you about this, but this is a great idea.
Are kids doing virtual meet and greet with other students?	yes! The entire class will be together.
Will tardy be counted and how?	No, tardies will not be counted.
When will the kindergarteners be tested for GT this year? any resources recommended to help them get ready for the GT test?	At this time, it will be in November, but we are still receiving guidance. You will be notified.
I can't download Microsoft Office. Who do I contact for help?	You can contact HISD Help Desk or our IT Monica Mendez. servicedesk@houstonisd.org
What exactly are we paying for with the supplies fees? since we have all the books.	This is the supplies that you typically purchase every year. (notebooks, pencils, crayons, binder, etc.) The plan is to distribute them in October when we are in person.

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Are Cardinal Tweets on twitter? or email?	Sent through emails.
Hello! Is there ESL also on virtual platform? My kid going to pre-K was assigned as ESL.	Yes. Mrs. Banks is the Pre-k, teacher, and she will also include ESL instructional methods during her online lessons.
Will we not need any of those supplies that we are paying for during virtual learning?	our hope is that the supplies we passed out will be enough.
Do we have to create a Teams account?	No, students have an account as a HISD student. It is through Office 365. This information is on the Digital Resources page.
Do we purchase the school supplies even if our child continues virtual learning?	Yes, as of now students are still returning to school in October and will need supplies.
When logging in through Office 365, you put in the student's username and password on the digital resources page.	
This is the direct link if you want to post: https://hornpto1.wufoo.com/forms/early-bird-market-202021/	
But when I click on digital resources, it takes me to CLEVER	CLEVER is how students get to their digital resources.
Are virtual meetings for students from 7:30-3:00?	Teachers will share their daily schedules. The schedule is asynchronous and synchronous which means students will not be live all day.