



FALCON NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020 - VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Rice School Parents & Guardians,

With the health and safety of students, families, and staff as the top priority, all HISD students will begin the 2020-2021 school year virtually on September 8, 2020. Virtual instruction for all students will continue for six weeks through Friday, October 16, 2020. On Monday, October 19, 2020, face-to-face instruction for students will begin. This date is subject to change based on COVID-19 conditions across the City of Houston and guidance from local, state, and federal health officials. I hope all of our Rice School Families are doing well. We look forward to the start of a new school year!

Principal Hobbs

VIRTUAL SCHOOL

First Day of VIRTUAL School is Tuesday, September 8, 2020

THE RICE SCHOOL VIRTUAL MEET THE TEACHER

If you have questions,
please contact your child's teacher.

ELEMENTARY TEACHER CONTACT PAGE

<https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/83712>

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER CONTACT PAGE

<https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/83712>

Grade Levels	Date	Time
Kindergarten, 1st, & 2nd	September 1	4:00 to 6:00 pm
3rd, 4th, & 5th	September 2	4:00 to 6:00 pm
6th, 7th, & 8th	September 3	4:00 to 6:00 pm

THE RICE SCHOOL VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Grade Levels	Date	Time
Kindergarten, 1st, & 2nd	September 15	4:00 to 6:00 pm
3rd, 4th, & 5th	September 16	4:00 to 6:00 pm
6th, 7th, & 8th	September 17	4:00 to 6:00 pm

FALL HOLIDAY

Fall Holiday will be September 28, 2020.

HISD @ H.O.M.E.



The HISD @ H.O.M.E. Hotline – 713-556-INFO (4636) will be available Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The HISD @ H.O.M.E. Webinars: You can rewatch all Parent and Student webinars at the following page: <https://www.houstonisd.org/HOME>

REOPENING TIMELINE FALL 2020



September 8, 2020	First day of school (all students virtual)
October 19, 2020	Face-to-face instruction begins*
September 8, 2020 - January 29, 2021	- First semester of virtual learning for students/parents who choose online instruction.
*Parents will have the option to choose online instruction for the fall semester (through January 29) or entire school year (through June 11). Read more about this process here https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/182556	

Starting on August 24, parents will receive a phone call from the district, asking them to indicate their choice for the 2020-2021 school year. Parents will be asked to select one of the following options:

- Option 1: On-Campus Learning
- Option 2: Virtual Learning

After each six-week grading period, parents may change their selection.

<https://www.houstonisd.org/reopening>

DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE SOCIOECONOMIC FORM FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR



The Houston Independent School District will provide free breakfast and lunch to students for the 2020-2021 school year, but parents will still need to fill out a new socioeconomic form.

Because all HISD students qualify for free breakfast and lunch parents will not need to complete and return a free and reduced-price meal application. However, HISD is still required to collect and report the socioeconomic status of each student via a blue form that is then sent to the Texas Education Agency. This ensures campuses receive Title I funding.

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Parents must complete and return one form to each school where they have a child enrolled. A form is not needed for pre-K students who have been qualified based on proof of income eligibility or homeless status.

It is very important that families complete the form so that schools can receive Title I and State Compensatory Education funding, which directly impact campuses and students throughout the district. Title I and State Compensatory Education funding can be used to:

- Hire personnel
- Provide tutoring services
- Order technology
- Provide professional development for teachers.

Socioeconomic forms are also utilized in the annual state accountability ratings, ensuring that each campus is compared to other campuses with the same percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

Forms will be made available electronically, and every HISD campus will have paper copies available. All parents should complete and return the form by Friday, Oct. 16. The Public Education Information Management System encompasses all data requested and received by TEA about public education, including student demographic and academic performance, personnel, financial, and organizational information.

Download form here:

<https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/7903/HISD-Socioeconomic-Info-Form-ENG-SPAN.pdf>

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES



The Houston Independent School District is closely monitoring COVID-19 pandemic and is in contact with the Centers for Disease Control, Texas Department of State Health Services and Houston Health Department to ensure all students and staff members are safe and updated with the latest information.

For updates, go to:

<https://www.houstonisd.org/HealthAlerts>

TAKE THE COURSE: "PARENT INTRODUCTION TO VIRTUAL LEARNING"



This school year, your child will begin school with virtual learning. This will allow HISD students to continue their education while HISD continues to monitor conditions across the district and make adjustments as necessary to ensure the health and safety of all students. During virtual learning, parents and students will be able to use HISD @ H.O.M.E. and district platforms to access instructional supports and resources.

The transition to virtual learning can present various challenges for families. To ensure parents and guardians are better informed, this course is designed to provide an introduction to virtual learning and guidance to support your student's virtual learning experience.

Take the Course: "Parent Introduction to Virtual Learning" at <https://www.houstonisd.org/ParentCourse>

PARENT UNIVERSITY TO KICK OFF THIRD YEAR WITH VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS



The Houston Independent School District will kick off its third year of Parent University on Tuesday, Sept. 15 with the first of six virtual workshops.

The workshops will connect parents and children to resources offered by the district to create successful academic careers as well as safe and healthy environments at home and at school.

The theme of the first session is "2020-2021 School Year 101" and will focus on the district's "Reconnect Safely, Return Strong" reopening plan. After the September session, Parent University virtual workshops will take place on a monthly basis:

- Tuesday, Oct. 20 – Family Engagement
- Tuesday, Nov. 17 – Digital Citizenship
- Tuesday, Jan. 19 – School Level(s) Transition
- Tuesday, Feb. 16 – Non-Academic Supports Offered in HISD
- Tuesday, April 20 – Supporting Your Child's Social and Emotional Needs

All HISD families are encouraged to attend. A variety of community resources will be available for parents, and Spanish interpretation will be offered. Registration and more information for each event can be found at HoustonISD.org/ParentUniversity.

HISD LAUNCHES 'LET'S STAY CONNECTED' MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

The Houston Independent School District has announced the launch of Let's Stay Connected, a mental health hotline for students and parents to provide emotional, social, and psychological support to students and parents who feel the need for assistance.

Students and parents may call the Let's Stay Connected Hotline at 713-556-1340 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Trained staff from HISD's Social and Emotional Learning Department are available to offer counseling, mental health education, and make referrals in English and Spanish.

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“One of the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis we have seen is an increase in the need for mental health support among our students and parents,” Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said. “May is Mental Health Awareness Month so what better time to launch our hotline to address families’ needs in a way that is easily accessible and at no cost to them.”

Callers to the hotline may remain anonymous.

All HISD staff members are reminded they have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which may be reached by calling 833-812-5181 and is offered at no cost to employees.

CAMP SPARK

We are inviting all our Rice School students to participate in HISD's **Camp Spark** which will be held Aug. 24 through Sept. 4, and is free of charge for all HISD students in pre-K through 12th grade.

The HISD Academics Department is hosting this virtual interactive Academic Enrichment Camp designed to provide students with enrichment leading up to the first day of the 2020-21 school year while reinforcing academic skills.

Students will participate in interactive engaging activities in science, math, literacy, technology, and art.

Elementary:

- Virtual field trips
- Interactive literacy, math, science, and technology activities

Secondary:

- Interactive activities on navigating the HUB, Microsoft, and Google
- SAT prep, college admissions, financial aid, and scholarship preparation

As part of Camp Spark, the academics team has also created the “Attend to Win” program. Students who participate daily will have the chance to win gift cards and a Bluetooth Boombox.

To register for Camp Spark visit the [registration page](https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/182867) at <https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/182867>.

OUR CORE BELIEFS

- We believe that every attempt should be made to maintain the dignity of both the adult and the student.
- We believe that students should be guided and expected to solve the problems they create without making problems for anyone else.
- We believe that students should be given the opportunity to make decisions and live with the resulting consequences.
- We believe that students should have the opportunity to tell their side of the story (due process hearing) when consequences appear to be unfair.
- We believe that misbehavior should be viewed as an opportunity for individual problem solving and preparation for the real world as opposed to a personal attack on the school or staff.

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