

August 1, 2020

Welcome DeBakey HSHP 9th Grade Students and Parents!

You are embarking into an exceptional educational experience. This school year, Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions (DeBakey HSHP) begins its 49th year as an outstanding educational program. We will continue to maintain our goal to prepare our students for university study in the fields of science, mathematics and medicine.

New demands and opportunities will be here for you to conquer. When you accepted the invitation to attend DeBakey HSHP, students were provided a packet of information that included a summer reading list and math review problems. Students should have those instructional activities completed before school begins. Completion of these activities will be important for students to begin their school year with a positive start. Students will be expected to stay on course throughout the school year in order to be successful. You are now part of the DeBakey HSHP Class of 2024!

*All students will return to classes **virtually** beginning Tuesday, September 8, 2020. On Monday, October 19, 2020, face-to-face instruction for students is scheduled to 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. Please know that parents will have the choice to opt out of face-to-face instruction entirely – either for a portion of the school year or the entire year. For full details, go to HoustonISD.org/Reopening.*

To help with the transition into 9th grade at DeBakey HSHP and to prepare for virtual instructions, all 9th grade students will be issued a HISD laptop. Students will need to sign up for a specific time slot to pick up their HISD laptop and textbooks either on August 17, 18, or 19. These are the dates designated for 9th grade students. Please go to the DeBakey HSHP website: www.houstonisd.org/debakey to select a date and time to come on the DeBakey HSHP campus. Locate the link to “Class of 2024” for the sign-up form. In order to maintain the health and safety of staff and students, only students will be allowed in the building. All students must wear masks and maintain social distancing when in the building. The process is estimated to take 1 hour. Parents may drop off students and return in one hour or parents may wait in the school parking lot.

Within the next several weeks you will receive emails with important information, announcements, and dates that will assist in the transition to DeBakey HSHP. Students and parents will also receive invitations to attend afternoon and evening virtual “Microsoft Teams Meetings”. Please ensure we have accurate parent email address, home address, and contact numbers in order to maintain regular contact throughout the school year. Any corrections or changes should be emailed to Mrs. Patricia Perez pperez6@houstonisd.org and Mr. Jarrod Thornhill jthornhi@houstonisd.org.

DeBakey HSHP teachers will report virtually on Monday, August 24 for professional development and planning. The school building may not be accessible but DeBakey HSHP staff will be available through emails or you may leave a message on our school and office numbers. Please check the DeBakey website, www.houstonisd.org/debakey, periodically for updates and general information and for staff names and contact information.

Sincerely,

*Agnes Perry,
Principal*