Friday, August 28, 2020

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

We're getting closer to the beginning of classes and we're excited to welcome our students back to school virtually. As mentioned during our community meeting, we have scheduled Materials Pick-Up for Wednesday and Thursday, Sep. 2 and 3. Please download the schedule and map below and make plans to pass by to pickup or drop-off the following items:

**Pick-up**
- Pre-K: Storybooks & Book Bag
- Kinder - 8th Grade: Textbooks & Instructional Materials
- 5th Grade: 2019-2020 5th Grade Commemorative T-shirts
- Yearbooks: if you ordered a yearbook, you may pick it up at this time.

**Drop-off**
- Turn in all textbooks and library books from last school year 2019-2020. ([Please write the student's name on a piece of tape adhered to the front cover.](#))

### Materials Pick-up Schedule & Map

Many of you have heard from your child(ren)'s teacher(s) already. If you haven't, you will be hearing from them soon. We look forward to seeing all of you at our Virtual Meet The Teacher sessions, which will take place as follows:

*Note: You only need to attend one of the sessions for child's grade level.*

**TUESDAY, SEP. 1**
- 1st and 2nd Grades: 9-10 AM and 5-6 PM
- 6th Grade: 10-11 AM and 6-7 PM

**WEDNESDAY, SEP. 2**
- 3rd and 4th Grades: 9-10 AM and 5-6 PM
- 7th Grade: 10-11 AM and 6-7 PM

**THURSDAY, SEP. 3**
- PK/K: 9-10 AM and 5-6 PM
- 5th and 8th Grades: 10-11 AM and 6-7 PM

Stay healthy! Please continue to wear a mask and keep social distance – and don't forget to register for Membership Toolkit to continue receiving important updates from the school.
Students’ Virtual Schedules

Parents please review our virtual schedules for the first six weeks of the new school year using the link below. Once on the page, click on your student's grade level to view the schedule.

First 6 Weeks: Virtual School Schedules by Grade

Sign Up for Membership Toolkit

Here’s what you need to do to continue receiving our weekly newsletter and updates:

1. Click on the link below to go to the Wharton PTO website.
2. Click on "Register/Login" icon.
3. Select "Create Account" and fill in the name, email, and password information
4. Click "Verify my email" and then check your email for a link to complete the process.
5. Once you have verified your email address, log back in and finish the registration process.

Register Now

Back to School Information

We’re working diligently to get ready for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. We’re looking forward to seeing you next week to pick up materials and virtually at meet the teacher. Below you can find additional information about the return to school:

- **Wharton Virtual Return to Classes Community Meeting** - View a recording of our Aug. 14, 2020 Community Meeting where Ms. Day gave an overview of what virtual learning will look like at Wharton. Read the Q&A of the meeting [here](#).
- **Wharton DLA FAQs** - Answers to frequently asked questions about the return to school.
- **HISD Reopening Plan** - Read HISD's detailed plan for reopening schools.
- **HISD Parent Guide** - This guide includes important information for parents, including key dates and answers to frequently asked questions.
- **HISD Parent Introduction to Virtual Learning** - Parents are asked to complete the course no later than **Friday, September 4**.

Here is a timeline for the re-opening dates:

- **September 8, 2020**: First day of school (Virtual only)
- **October 19, 2020**: Face-to-face instruction begins*
- **September 8, 2020 – January 29, 2021**: First semester of remote learning for students/parents who choose online-only instruction.

*Parents will have the option to choose remote instruction for the fall semester (through January 29, 2021) or entire school year (through June 11, 2021).

Parents started to receive a phone calls 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. HISD will call to confirm your option if you have more than one student.

Students and parents can call the HISD @ H.O.M.E. Hotline at 713-556-INFO with questions about virtual learning. Phone lines are open until 7 p.m. For more info, visit bit.ly/2CLlxT

REMINDER: HISD students are not required to wear uniforms for the 2020-2021 school year.

Wharton PTO News

Parent Ambassador Program: Are you interested in being a room or grade level room parent? Were you a room parent last year? Please send us an email. More than ever we need to support all our Wharton parents and teachers. We want to start connecting with parents before classes begin.

Are you a native Spanish speaker? Are you interested in joining our new PTO committee for native/heritage parents? If so, send us an email! ¡Muchas Gracias!

Do you qualify for the COVID Electricity Relief Program? A PTO parent wanted to shared this link with our parent community. Deadline has been extended.

Wharton Middle School

6th Grade Parents: You are invited to join our Wharton Middle School Facebook Group. Please make sure to answer the questions to join. If you would like to join us on GroupMe, here is our link.

8th Grade Class of 2021: What's your theme for your last year at Wharton?

Additional Resources

Reduced Cost for Internet Access: Comcast has launched a new program that will provide families, with at least one child receiving lunches under the National School Lunch program, affordable access to Internet, computers and training. The Internet Essentials program is designed to close the digital divide. Eligible families will receive: Comcast home Internet service for $9.95 per month, the option to buy a computer for under $150 (plus applicable taxes), and access to online, in print and in classroom digital literacy training.

A household will be eligible to participate in this special program if it:
- is located within the Comcast service area,
- has not subscribed to Comcast Internet service within the last 90 days,
- and does not have an overdue Comcast bill or unreturned equipment.

For additional information about this program, visit www.internetessentials.com/partner. Parents can sign up or receive more information by calling 1-855-846-8376 or they can visit www.internetessentials.com.

HISD No-Cost Summer Meals Program: HISD and the Houston Food Bank will continue to distribute curbside meals for families on Mondays and Thursdays through Aug. 31. For a complete list of pick-up sites and opening times, click here.

Bookmark HISD Nutrition Services Summer Meals page to see all services offered. You can also follow HISD Nutrition Services on Twitter for last minute updates like new locations or cancellations: @HISDNutri. If you want to contact HISD Nutrition Services you may do so at fsresponseline@houstonisd.org or (713) 491-5700

Parent University: Stay tuned for Parent University which is going to be VIRTUAL this year! All Wharton families are encouraged to attend. Read more bit.ly/2BpZb0j

- 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

LimitlessMinds: a non-profit that provides free virtual tutoring to K-8 students. LimitlessMinds is entirely run by volunteer high school students, and it has been featured in various newspapers. Ms. Hsu from Carnegie Vanguard is inviting all Wharton Eagles. If you like to sign up you can do it here.
**Numerly** is a Carnegie Vanguard High School student-run organization dedicated to offering students access to quality educational resources to help and propel them in their educational careers.

As part of their initiative, they are offering a FREE, full year 1-on-1/Group Tutoring Service for grades 3-8.

If you or someone you know is interested in their course, visit the [Numerly website](https://app.constantcontact.com/pages/dashboard/home/#/).

**Did you know?! The Houston Public Library has a TO-GO option!!** You can pick up your favorite books without getting out of your car! Don't forget - Your #HISD student ID number is your HPL library card! Learn more.

**MyOn Reader:** Research shows that reading just 20 minutes a day over the summer can make a world of difference. Every #HISD Pre-K-5 student has 24/7 access to myON reader to keep them reading! Learn more [here](https://app.constantcontact.com/pages/dashboard/home/#/).

**STUDENTS:** Immerse yourself in your favorite books and explore new worlds! Just download the MackinVIA app to get started. MackinVIA has the newest and hottest eBooks and audiobooks available at your fingertips, FREE. More information [here](https://app.constantcontact.com/pages/dashboard/home/#/).

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