From the Principal's Desk

From Ms. Day:

Wharton parents you are invited to watch the video of the HISD Special Board meeting on Reopening which was held Thursday, July 23, 2020. A lot of good information was shared that might help answer questions you might have. Also please review the Reopening Plan and Parent Guide links below.

Also mentioned in the video, back in May HISD formed a Communicable Disease Plan Task Force to provide reopening recommendations that prioritized health and safety. See this link for an Executive Summary.

Note that HISD is currently in the middle of replacing its district wide student information system (SIS) during its annual late summer maintenance window. As mentioned in the video any student changes or requests will not be processed until after August 10, 2020

We are still working on Wharton’s specific plans at this moment more to come soon. Stay healthy!

Please continue to wear a mask and keep social distance.

See links below for detail information:

Reopening Plan
Parent Guide
Academic Calendar

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).

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. Teachers will report to work virtually on Monday, August 24. All other district employees will continue to work virtually and will be notified by their direct supervisor regarding the date they will be expected to return to the office.
Parent Survey: Don't forget!! we want to hear from all of our parents and parental figures at Wharton. Please fill out our survey in the next weeks so we can use your input for our summer planning sessions. You support will continue to be an integral part in the next school year.

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!

Parent Ambassador Program: Are you interested in being a room or grade level room parent? if so send us an email. More than ever we need to support all our Wharton parents and teachers.

Allegro Mágico Podcast: Podcasts are a great way to expose your children to Spanish. Allegro Mágico is a wonderful podcast about music for children. The podcast is hosted by Claudia, a Mexican mom living in Spain, who with the help of her daughters, Paula and Fabiola, teaches listeners about classical music and music from around the world.

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

Wharton Middle School

The Wharton Quarantine Post: Just had their second summer edition go out this week. If any middle school student (including our new 6th graders) want to help with content please send Mateo an email using your HISD email account. Thank you!

Additional resources available to parents and students during the summer

HISD Family and Community Engagement (FACE): Do you want to learn about available resources within and outside of HISD?

Join HISD's Family and Community Engagement team at 1 p.m. every Wednesday for #ConnectionWednesdays!

Register here: bit.ly/FACEWed

Summer Broadcast/Online Access to HISD @ H.O.M.E. TV Lessons

- Broadcasts have increased to include Special Education and Fine Arts lessons.
- We are continuing to air HISD @ H.O.M.E. TV lessons through partnerships with Univision/Unimas67 and Fox26/My20.
- My20 continues to air English-language lessons for students on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to noon and Spanish-language lessons on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Unimás 67 continues to air Spanish-language lessons Monday-Friday from 7:00-8:00 a.m.
- Along with our current distance learning platform, HISD @ H.O.M.E. TV continues to provide instructional videos from 9:00-11:00 a.m., 1:00-3:00 p.m., and 5:00-7:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.
- Segments in English and Spanish are broadcast on HISD TV on Comcast Ch. 18 and Ch. 99 Universal, as well as online via HoustonISD.org/LiveTV.
- Current and previous lessons can also be assessed online at https://blogs.houstonisd.org/hisdtv/.

HISD launches ‘Let’s Stay Connected’ mental health hotline for students and parents: 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. Callers to the hotline may remain anonymous.

HISD No-Cost Summer Meals Program: When Houston Independent School District reopens its curbside summer meals program on Monday, July 20, it will do so with 12 sites strategically located throughout the city. Seven of those locations will be operated in partnership with the Houston Food Bank, allowing families to
pick up several days' worth of student meals as well as packages of produce — and other food items when available — for families.

HISD Nutrition Services previously operated several dozen smaller sites but streamlined operations to maximize resources in areas with the most need and reduce staff needed on site as COVID-19 cases continue to rise across the city. Sites will continue to be open on Mondays and Thursdays through Monday, Aug. 31.

The seven partnership sites will be located at:
- Sam Houston Math, Science, and Technology Center, 9400 Irvinigton Blvd.
- Revere Middle School, 10502 Briar Forest Dr.
- Kashmere High School, 6900 Wileyvale St.
- Chavez High School, 8501 Howard Dr.
- Milby High School, 1601 Broadway St.
- Booker T. Washington High School, 4204 Yale St.
- Lawson Middle School, 14000 Stancliff St.

An additional five curbside student meal sites will be located at:
- Clifton Middle School, 6001 Golden Forest Dr.
- Wisdom High School, 6529 Beverly Hill Lane
- Furr High School, 500 Mercury Dr.
- North Forest High School, 10726 Mesa Dr.
- Marshall Middle School*, 1115 Noble St.

*Northside High School, 1101 Quitman St., will replace Marshall once it has been deep-cleaned and sanitized following a case of COVID-19.

Families also can go to HoustonFoodBank.org for a list of the 250 open partner sites and other COVID-19 resources available across greater Houston.

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: @HISDNutri like new locations or cancellations. If you want to contact HISD Nutrition Services you may do so at fsresponseline@houstonisd.org or (713) 491-5700

P-EBT Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer is a one-time food benefit for families who lost access to free or reduced-price meals due to school closures. It is now available and more information (including the application) can be found at the link below: yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/PEBT. NEW Deadline is July 31st. All HISD students qualify to apply. All Wharton students are eligible to apply.

Nurse's Notes

The HISD @ H.O.M.E. Hotline – 713-556-INFO (4636): will be available Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The HISD @ H.O.M.E. Webinars: You can rewatch all Parent and Student webinars at the following page. ✔ it out at http://bit.ly/2RzCc7B!http://bit.ly/2RzCc7B!

Library Services

Houston Public Library's Summer Reading Program has started! Register at houstonlibrary.org/summer & Imagine Your Story with the Houston Public Library June 1-August 15! Earn 📚 and virtual badges by logging days of reading and participating in virtual activities and programs.

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 at bit.ly/2Bt7fNt

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:

Get your reading on this summer for some fun rewards! The BEST thing you can do for your student is to encourage reading! Good list from our friends at Red Elementary.

- H-E-Buddy Summer Reading Club
Art Integration Notes

**HMNS @ H.O.M.E. Learning Lesson and Video Series:** Facilitated by our Houston Museum of Natural Science teachers, our goal is to present the city of Houston with the naturally occurring phenomena and patterns that occur in our world. The HMNS @ H.O.M.E. Learning Lesson and Video Series is available to all teachers, students, and parents within the HISD community. The HMNS remote learning is a five-day experience that consists of one-pagers and accompanying videos. Resources are available to teachers via the HUB and parents via the following links:

- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5

**FotoFest** has a Youtube channel where you can watch videos about the current FotoFest show on African Cosmologies. [Watch here.](link)

The **Art League of Houston** has produced art lessons in Spanish for all Wharton students to use. [Download directions for accessing the videos.](link)

**Fun Activities**

Learn ⚽ at home with Diesel and friends! HISD has partnered with [Houston Dynamo](link) to provide students w/virtual ⚽ lessons! Starting TODAY #HISD students can learn the art of ⚽ directly from Dynamo & Houston Dash players! More: [bit.ly/2BM38fB](link)

**The Houston Parks and Recreation Department** is challenging you to Take It Outside by taping yourself jumping rope, taking a hike, or practicing another safe and socially distant activity at a City of Houston park. Post your video with the hashtag #GetOutHouston and the park you’re at, and each Friday we’ll pick the best ones to share on our platforms. Please keep it tasteful and to a maximum of one minute; and have fun!

› ¡Camp Khan empieza hoy! ‹ #CampKhan2020 is available free and in spanish for all interested students. Take advantage of this resource for your student ¡Es divertido, flexible y ✨ gratuito ✨! ¿Listo para comenzar? 📈 [khan.co/CampKhan2020es](link)

Check out fun and free summer camps from [Varsity Tutors](link): Keep checking the list of available classes we see new classes listed almost daily.