August 16, 2021

**Revised: October 18, 2021 \* Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instructional Programs-amended to include addressing digital divide, fully remote, and off-site dining**.

Dear HPS School Community,

As the summer is coming to a close and a new school year is set to start on September 1, 2021, Hunterdon Preparatory School (HPS) has been preparing for a safe return to school. As always, our first goal is to maintain the health and safety of our students and staff members while they are at school. In early July, the Governor and the NJ Department of Education released a document titled *The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-22 School Year.* We have used this document as guidance as well as information we have received from the Office of the Governor, NJ Department of Health, and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to develop our Safe Return Plan. Please know that our plans remain flexible and responsive to any future guidance from these sources.

# Safe Return Safety Protocols:

* A return to full-time, in-person learning for all students is planned to start on Wednesday, September 1, 2021. As announced by Governor Murphy, virtual learning is not an option for students this school year unless school is forced to close for a state of emergency.
* At this time, masks are required for all staff, students, and visitors while in the school building. (*See more information on mask requirements, below)*
* Masks are required for all students and staff while being transported to and from school and while transported throughout the day for school activities*.*
* A COVID-19 “Healthy” Pledge must be completed for all staff and students at the start of the school year. Parents pledge to monitor their child’s health daily and to keep students who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 home.
* All HPS guests and visitors must complete a Daily COVID-19 Screening form.
* Student, staff, and visitor temperatures will be taken daily before entering the school building.
* Students, staff, and visitors exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and sent home.
* Handwashing and hand sanitizing will continue to take place throughout the school day and as part of the school day routine.
* Students and staff will maintain 3 feet of social distance to the extent possible while at school. Plexiglas barriers will remain in place until further notice.
* Enhanced cleaning, disinfecting and ventilation protocols will be maintained throughout the school year.
* Contact tracing and quarantine protocols will continue throughout the school year under the guidance from the NJ Department of Health and managed by the HPS Pandemic Response Team.
* Students subject to quarantine will participate in asynchronous learning using Google Classroom in order to maintain their learning.
* \*In the event that the Hunterdon Preparatory School is required to provide remote instruction, students will be provided with no fewer than four hours of instruction and instruction will not extend beyond the hours of a typical on-site learning day. Instruction will take place via synchronous remote instruction and asynchronous learning.
* \* Technology needs of the students will be addressed individually. In the event that a student does not have access to a device (laptop/Chromebook) or is in need of Internet connection, the student will be provided means by the Hunterdon Preparatory School and at no cost to the family. Students who are in need of network access or in need of devices will be assisted by our technology department.
* \* Food Services-If applicable under the current FDA lunch opportunities program, the student’s sending district is responsible for the distribution of lunch. Parents are invited to contact their sending district for details

# Masks:

On August 6, 2021, Governor Murphy announced that all students in New Jersey K-12 school districts are required to wear masks while inside school buildings at the start of the 2021-22 school year, regardless of vaccination status. Pursuant to Executive Order 251, all workers, students,and visitorsare required to wear an appropriately fitted mask while in any indoor portion of the school premises. Exceptions may apply in certain circumstances, such as when emergency assistance is required; when an individual is engaged in an activity that would be obstructed by the mask (e.g., eating, drinking, playing an instrument); when engaged in a high-intensity physical activity; when exposed to extreme heat; or when engaged in an activity in which wearing a face mask would create an unsafe condition, as determined by school administration.

Any individual seeking a medical exemption from the mandatory masking requirement due to a medical condition or disability must produce written documentation from a medical professional to support the request for exemption. The HPS Community will be notified if and when new guidance mandates a change to the current mask policy.

As you are aware, the COVID-19 landscape is fluid. Hunterdon Preparatory School puts the health and safety of its community as its priority. As such, we will continue to respond to the guidance and expertise of those involved in public health and safety in order to keep this commitment. Please address your questions or concerns regarding our safe return to school to Christopher Schumann, Principal, cschumann@hunterdonprep.org.