

August 16, 2021

*Updated March 1, 2022*

Dear HPS School Community,

As the summer is coming to 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.
  - ❖ *Currently, the NJ Department of Education only allows schools to offer virtual instruction to students for the following reasons: 1) they have tested positive for COVID-19; 2) they have to quarantine as a result of being a close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19; 3) they are awaiting COVID-19 test results; 4) they have COVID-19-like symptoms and are going for a test.*
- At this time, masks are required for all staff, students and visitors while in the school building. (See more information on mask requirements, below)
  - ❖ *On February 7, 2022, Governor Murphy announced the lifting of the universal mask mandate. Effective March 7, 2022, masks will be optional for all students, staff, and visitors at Hunterdon Preparatory School.*
- Masks are required for all students and staff while being transported to and from school and while transported throughout the day for school activities.
  - ❖ *On Friday, February 25, 2022 the CDC announced that masks are no longer required on school Buses or school operated vehicles. Effective March 7, 2022, the mask mandate will be lifted for school transportation. However, the decision to lift the mandate is determined by each child's sending district. Students must comply with their sending district's masking policy for transportation.*
- 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 forms.
  - ❖ *Effective March 1, 2022, Daily COVID-19 Screening Forms are no longer required.*
- Student, staff and visitor temperatures will be taken daily before entering the school building.
  - ❖ *Effective March 1, 2022, temperatures will not be taken upon 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 to 6 feet of social distance to the extent possible while at school. Plexiglas barriers will remain in place until further notice.
  - ❖ *Effective March 1, 2022, plexiglas barriers are no longer required throughout the school building.*
- 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.

❖ *Students subject to quarantine will participate in synchronous, virtual learning for all core and health classes.*

#### **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. All staff and visitors will also be required to wear a mask in the school building. The HPS Community will be notified if and when new guidance mandates a change to the current mask policy.

❖ *On February 7, 2022, Governor Murphy announced the lifting of the universal mask mandate. Effective March 7, 2022, masks will be optional for all students, staff, and visitors at Hunterdon Preparatory School.*

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](mailto:cschumann@hunterdonprep.org).