



## **Hunterdon Preparatory School:** **Virtual Group Instructions**

At Hunterdon Preparatory School, group counseling is one of the most important ways your child gets and stays connected to their peers, learns and practices communication skills, works on being assertive and accountable, learns how to resolve conflicts and has an opportunity to process personal thoughts/feelings.

In order for your child to have the best chance of working on these skills and receiving feedback, it is imperative that group counseling time remains a confidential experience for your child and their classmates. However, while counselors will set this expectation with students during group, they cannot guarantee confidentiality in the virtual environment. Therefore, we need our students to be as vested and involved in making group counseling a safe and confidential place too. Counselors will be addressing group confidentiality in the virtual environment during the first week of school.

You can help us ensure that our students are supported throughout the school year in the following ways:

**During group counseling, please make sure your child:**

- 1. Has a private space to work that is free of siblings, parents, etc. so they can speak freely and openly with their classmates and their classmates can do the same without fear/worry of being overheard by non-HPS students. Confidentiality is critical! (a room with a door that can remain closed is ideal).**
- 2. Understands that recording (voice or video) any group sessions is a violation of HPS policy.**
- 3. Has the video camera on for the duration of the group session (one of the most important aspects of learning and practicing communication skills is to see someone's face when speaking and/or listening).**
- 4. Has access to personal device to use each group session (phone, computer, etc.) If your child does not, please let us know.**

**Counselors will be reviewing this information with your child during their first group counseling session.**

**Thank you for helping us.**