



HARVEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT NUMBER 152

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Dear HSD 152 Schools and Community,

We are ecstatic to inform you that we enjoyed a wonderful in person summer program without incident. To that end, I would like to extend a highly anticipated welcome back to our students and staff for full in person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Staff will report on Thursday August 19, 2021, for institute day, and Students on Monday August 23, 2021, for the first day of instruction. It has been an extremely trying time as we have navigated the COVID 19 pandemic and proactively prepared for any new variants of the virus that has interrupted our lives over the past 17 Months.

However, we have continued to review and adjust our protocols to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We know you have questions and may be uncertain with the constant changes in communications from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). However, according to our scientist "Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely resume full operations."

As such, I want to highlight a few key points from Harvey District 152, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) below:

1. The health and safety of our students, educators, and families remains our number one priority.
2. The current guidance for Illinois schools is that we work with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed in our area by monitoring levels of community transmission and local vaccine coverage. Thus, we are coordinating a community vaccination and student immunization opportunity at Brooks School during registration on August 14, 2021. A logistics communication will be forthcoming.
3. The CDC and IDPH continue to recommend masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies. As such, we will require all staff and students to wear masks regardless of vaccination status effective immediately (July 30, 2021). We will revisit this requirement in October 2021. We will also maintain a social distancing measure when possible.

**Administrative Center ~ 16001 Lincoln Avenue, Harvey, Illinois 60426 ~ (708) 333-0300 ~ Fax (708) 333-0349
jthomas@harvey152.org**

ANGELOU~BRYANT~HOLMES~RILEY~WHITTIER~BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL



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4. Masking is universally required on buses and school-related transportation. The CDC's order requires that regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses.

Finally, as we welcome you back to what we believe will be an exciting and safe year of learning with some sense of normalcy, please view our school reopening plan and mitigation strategies available on our website at www.harvey152.org.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your building administrators.

Best Regards,

John F. Thomas
Superintendent
Harvey School District 152

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