



Hopewell Valley Regional School District

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Rosetta D. Treece, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

August 23, 2021

Dear Hopewell Valley Regional School District Community,

It is an honor to begin my first year as your Superintendent of Schools. Our teachers, support staff, and administrative team have been working hard to prepare for the reopening of our schools. I applaud their hard work and thank them for their diligence. I also want to thank members of our staff who worked throughout the summer to provide extended school year, camps, and enrichment programs for our students. As we face another year of uncertainty and the COVID-19 virus, we want to assure you that we are working closely with our health care professionals and local governmental agencies to keep all members of our greater school community safe as we transition back to in-person learning.

With the rise in the Delta variant and increasing numbers of “break through” and positive cases among the vaccinated and unvaccinated, many have expressed their concern about our return to school. Rest assured that we are continuing to closely monitor cases locally and to consult with our Health Department. One way to ensure that we have a safe return to school, and that we have little interruption to in-person learning, is to follow the guidelines outlined by the CDC, Governor, and Department of Education.

You will be receiving a letter from your child(ren)’s building principal regarding specifics about lunch, return to school procedures, open houses, and orientations. As a district, we remind staff, parents, students, and visitors to our facilities to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Masks are mandatory for all staff, students, and visitors in our indoor spaces. Outdoors, masks are optional. Individuals must social distance both inside and outside of our facilities.
- Masks are required on all school buses. Riders must wear a mask and stay in their assigned seats. We will not be able to provide for social distancing on our school buses.
- If your child is sick, please keep them home and consult with your family physician to determine if testing is warranted.
- Remind members of your family to wash their hands frequently and to avoid touching their faces, eyes, and noses.
- Change out wet or soiled masks; extra masks will be available in our schools and on buses for anyone who needs one.
- Follow travel guidelines throughout the school year to help us to avoid outbreaks due to nonessential travel. Click [here](#) to find travel guidelines.
- If you and/or your child(ren) is/are eligible for vaccination, we strongly encourage you to do so.

Frequently Asked Questions

On August 11, 2021, we hosted a panel discussion via webinar during which members of the local Health Care community responded to questions about masking, vaccination, school and health safety protocols, and the Delta Variant. If you did not get a chance to attend, you can find the recording [here](#). We have also created a [FAQ Handout](#) for your convenience.

Opening Days of School

September 1st, staff will return to school for professional development. On September 2nd, the middle and high school will host 6th and 9th grade orientation. Schools and offices will be closed on September 6th and 7th to observe Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah. On September 8th, all students will return to school. September 16th schools and offices will be closed to observe Yom Kippur.

Lunches

As each school building has a unique layout, your building principal(s) will be communicating directly with parents/guardians regarding their specific lunchroom protocols. In the elementary and middle schools, students will be seated 6ft apart. In the high school, students will be 3ft apart. Seating charts and cameras will be used to assist with contact tracing of students. Students will eat outdoors when the weather permits.

Bus Transportation

Your child(ren)'s transportation information will be available for you in Oncourse. Students, drivers, and bus aides must wear masks on our school buses. Principals sent out a survey to collect information regarding parents who will be opting to transport their children and to opt out of riding the bus. Please let us know if you will be transporting your child to school via the survey or by contacting the Director of Transportation, Heather Van Mater at heathervanmater@hvrsd.org

Other Important Information

We will be using OnCourse to communicate many important details about the upcoming school year. **Beginning on Thursday, August 26th, parents/guardians will be able to access their child(ren)'s classroom placement, team, and homerooms. This can be found in [OnCourse](#) by clicking on "Other Student Data" on the left side of the page when you login.**

New families to the district or parents/guardians who have forgotten their passwords to OnCourse Connect, please use [this link](#) to obtain account credentials for OnCourseConnect. Parents/guardians will need to enter the email address that was provided to the district. The username will be provided by an email with a reset password link.

Once the school year begins, parents/guardians will once again be able to view daily attendance, homework, as well as report cards in the OnCourse system. Each teacher will be maintaining a website in OnCourse and will be utilizing OnCourse Classroom throughout the year that will include homework and/or other important information for parents and students related to their class. If you experience any problems trying to access your OnCourse account, click [here](#) or email us at Registrar@hvrsd.org or call 609-737-4000 ext. 2304.

Back to School Nights and Parent Teacher Conferences will be held virtually this year. More information will be communicated by your building principals.

We are excited to have our students and staff back for in-person learning and expect a great school year. Enjoy the rest of your summer vacation.

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