



Office of the Superintendent The Road Back and Restart Plan Update

August 6, 2020

Dear HCST Community:

Since the Hudson County Schools of Technology closed its buildings to students in March, we have collaboratively planned with our various departments, building principals and facilities directors to ensure safety protocols while welcoming back our employees. More recently, our district has been working diligently to develop a comprehensive *return to school* plan that addresses both safety and instructional guidance as outlined in the New Jersey Department of Education's publication of [The Road Back](#). In an effort to cover all perspectives, we have assembled a Restart Committee that includes parents, teachers, school nurse, administrators, support staff, students and board members.

The committee has developed a HCST Restart Plan that, once approved by the Board, will be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education. All decisions are supported by facts, data and guidelines of the CDC, State of New Jersey and Department of Education. Once the plan is approved, we will inform you and the plan will be posted to our website. **Please keep in mind that the plan is subject to change pending approval by the NJDOE and new guidance / guidelines from the CDC and State of New Jersey.**

In the interest of full transparency and continued effective communication for the anticipated start of the 2020/2021 School Year, the following is an outline of the more comprehensive plan.

Student Re-entry Plan

Parents have been notified to login to their SchoolMint account to complete their child's **Commitment to Learning Consent Form**. **From there, parents/guardians MUST choose from one of the following learning models for THE FIRST FULL MARKING PERIOD (September through November 13, 2020).**

Choice 1: HYBRID Learning Model (on-site and virtual)

- Students will receive 5 days of instruction per week:
 - **1 day of on-site** instruction (scheduled Monday - Thursday) *subject to change based on parental/guardian Commitment to Learning Consent responses; 25% of students per day assigned by alphabetical breakdown to be provided*
 - **4 days virtual** through Google Classroom platform
- Lessons will be delivered for in-person instruction as well as through live (synchronous) and online/recorded (asynchronous) instruction.
- Special Education Accommodations will be made as needed; the Child Study Team will continue to review IEPs and 504s to make adjustments pertinent to the current learning environment.
- Parents/Guardians may opt-out to switch to the Virtual Model, at any time, with authorization from the student's school principal.

Choice 2: Full-Time VIRTUAL Learning Model

- Students will receive 5 days of virtual online instruction through Google Classroom platform.
- Lessons will be developed and delivered through live (synchronous) and online/recorded (asynchronous) instruction.
- Special Education Accommodations will be made as needed; the Child Study Team will continue to review IEPs and 504s to make adjustments pertinent to the current learning environment.
- Parents/Guardians may NOT switch to the Hybrid Learning Model within the current marking period. *Commitment to the virtual model is for the **first full marking period**.*
- Prior to our second marking period, parents will be able to opt-in to the Hybrid Learning Model for the second marking period (November 16, 2020 - January 29, 2021), assuming State and Federal guidelines allow in-person education.

Instructional Faculty: 25% of the student population, per day, will be assigned by alphabetical breakdown. The daily population will not exceed 25% of the entire student body during the 1st marking period. The alphabetical breakdown will be provided to you by your school principal once the parent/guardian responses are received from the Commitment to Learning Consent Form.

Scheduling:

- Virtual Day: Fridays will be a virtual day for ALL students and school staff, excluding Food Services and Operations staff. This day will be dedicated to deep disinfecting of the buildings and buses; and instructionally allow students and teachers to meet virtually to review and build a community while looking forward.
- An updated district-level and school calendar will be provided.
- Incoming Freshmen will receive specific reporting information from their school.

Important Dates:

September 9-18, 2020 All instruction will be virtual for students. Professional development opportunities and planning for instructional and non-instructional staff will be provided.

Hybrid/In-Person Instruction will begin **Monday, September 21, 2020.**

Transportation

All students and staff must wear masks and exercise social distancing/spacing on our buses. Students will disembark on a staggered schedule to expedite safe entry with clear signage on buses and entrances. All buses will be equipped with sanitizer, masks and disinfectant; all vehicles will be cleaned daily and fogged after each run.

Facilities

All facilities are safe, clean and instructionally sound; we have instituted all safety precautions including: entrance screening, temperature checks, social distancing and directional signage, mask requirements, partitions, outdoor instructional areas, airflow/HVAC inspections with increased cleaning schedules; all classrooms will be fogged daily.

Daily Health Screenings: Staff and students will be screened daily before entering the building. This screening will include a mask check, a temperature check, and a symptom review. Detailed procedures for this are currently being reviewed and updated on a daily basis. More information is forthcoming.

Disinfecting/Sanitizing: Cleaning protocols and procedures will be done daily and with deep disinfecting on Fridays when all staff and students are virtual. All classrooms will be equipped with sanitizer, masks and disinfectant and all vehicles will be cleaned and fogged daily.

Face Coverings: As per the latest mandate by Governor Murphy, “Students must wear masks in school buildings unless they have a medical condition or certain disabilities.” **Masks will be required by students and staff while on school property and while in school vehicles**, with outdoor Physical Education and while eating lunch as the exceptions. We will do what is possible to make necessary accommodations for those with medical conditions. In the interest of the safety and health of our entire community, **we ask that those unable or unwilling to wear a mask on school property opt for the Full-Time Virtual Learning choice.**

Food Services

The HCST Meal Program will continue to be offered to our students and staff.

On-site Hybrid Learning Students will be offered meals which are individually wrapped and separated in a Grab-and-Go style; staggered food service periods to be scheduled with increased cleaning and disinfection planned.	Virtual Learning Students will have meals available for pick-up at their school during regular school hours.
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Meals will be served in individual containers and all common areas will be clearly marked and spaced to support social distancing measures. All food service workers have been trained in handwashing, disinfecting and all COVID-19 precautions and procedures. More information from the Food Services Department will be provided prior to the start of our school year.

We thank you for remaining supportive as we will continue to update you on our comprehensive plan that meets all of the Department of Education requirements, as well as their recommendations.

As I have stated in previous correspondences, HCST is in constant communication and collaboration with local and State Health Departments as well as NJDOE. These are unprecedented times, but I am confident that as we continue to work together – we will get through this as a cohesive HCST Family. As always, remain **#HCSTstrong**.

With Appreciation,



Superintendent

Amy Lin-Rodriguez, Superintendent ▪ Telephone (201) 662-6700 ▪ One High Tech Way ▪ Secaucus, NJ 07094

Mission Statement

The Hudson County Schools of Technology is a visionary community that inspires creative independent thinking through diverse learning opportunities

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