



## Office of the Superintendent 08/15/20 September Restart Update

August 15, 2020

Dear HCST Explore Middle School Parents and Guardians:

Thank you for your active participation in completing the Commitment to Learning Consent Form. Your valuable input has enabled our district to effectively plan our re-entry for the first Marking Period of the 2020/2021 School Year. As the recommendations from State and public health officials continue to change, I appreciate your understanding and flexibility. With consideration of the Governor's recent [Executive Order](#) and our faculty, staff, parental/guardian feedback, the HCST ReStart Committee along with HCST Principals, we have updated the in-person start date to our plan.

### Reporting Information and Important Dates

*Each school will provide specific virtual reporting information, schedules and expectations to its students in the weeks ahead.*

- The HCST 20/21 School Year will begin with Remote Learning on **Wednesday, September 9, 2020**.
- Students will remain learning within the virtual Google Classroom as directed following a delayed opening schedule of 9:30am until 2:15pm.
- The week of **September 28, 2020** Hybrid/In-person Instruction will begin for those students; over 60% of our district parents/guardians selected the Hybrid Learning Model. In an effort to maintain the most effective gradual re-entry and safety precautions, we have planned that on any given day, Monday through Thursday, there will be no more than 30% of the total student population in the building at one time.
- Fridays will be a virtual day for ALL students.
- Students will report daily, virtual or in-person in accordance to the district calendar.

As a reminder, the updated learning model elements are featured below:

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

- Students will receive 5 days of instruction per week **9:30am - 2:15pm**:
  - **1 - 2 days of on-site** instruction, (scheduled Monday - Thursday) *subject to change based on parental/guardian Commitment to Learning Consent responses; survey data yielded approximately 20-30% of students per day assigned by grade-level breakdown.* Your reporting schedule will be provided via email.
  - **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 **9:30am - 2:15pm**.
- 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.

## Updating Commitment to Learning Consent from HYBRID to VIRTUAL

If you wish to update your child's Commitment to Learning Consent from Hybrid to Virtual, please email [hcstinfo@hcstonline.org](mailto:hcstinfo@hcstonline.org) with your child's name with your request. As a reminder, 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.

## Transportation

A schedule of bus locations and pick-up times will be provided to the Hybrid Learning Model students. As a reminder, 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.

### Face Coverings:

**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 remain in the Full-Time Virtual Learning Model.**

## Food Services

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

Please visit <https://sites.google.com/hcstonline.org/foodservices> for the most up-to-date information. Meal applications and payment for your child's meal plan can be processed by visiting this page.

On-site <b>Hybrid Learning Students</b> 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.	<b>Virtual Learning Students</b> will have meals available for pick-up at their school during regular school hours.
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More information from the Food Services Department will be provided prior to the start of our school year.

## Technology

Our Tech Team is here to support your transition back to school!

Visit <https://helpdesk.hcstonline.org/> to submit any of your technology needs.

## Well Wishes

Want to wish our HCST Family well as we embark on a new school year? Submit your well wishes here: [#HCSTstrong Well Wishes](#)

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As you await further information from your schools, please know that the HCST dedicated faculty, staff and I look forward to a positive start of the school year. We recognize this is an unsettling time for us all, but together, we will begin the journey within our new educational environment **#HCSTstrong**.

Thank You for Your Support,



Superintendent

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

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### **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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