



Office of the Superintendent COVID19 School Closure Update 05-10-20

May 10, 2020

Dear HCST Community:

Today we **honor the strong and supportive women** in our lives on this unique Mother's Day – who through this health-related school closure have now taken on the additional role of our home-school facilitators... *we thank you.* Let us also give further special acknowledgement to the educators in our district who are providing home instruction and structure for their own children while supporting continuity of education for HCST students. Your ability to transform your own lifestyles coupled with seemingly endless patience and support for your children's virtual learning environment have not gone unnoticed and are very much appreciated.

Earlier this week, Governor Murphy directed that all schools will remain closed to in-person instruction for the remainder of the 19/20 School Year. In accordance, HCST will continue within our virtual learning community through our ***last day of school, Friday, June 19, 2020.***

Student Connections - Attendance & Support

All students are required to check-in daily, Monday-Friday, with each of their Instructors within Google Classroom. We encourage our students to communicate with School Counselors/Case Managers as needed. *Use your hcstonline emails and remain connected!*

Grading

Each school has maintained their respective grading scale within the flexibility recommended by the *New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)*. School-level team members and administrators are available to help our students and parents **answer any questions.**

End-of-Year Planning

Guidance from the *NJDOE* and reiterated by the *New Jersey Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Management* urges our community to respect the Governor's [Stay at Home Order](#), **refraining from any public gathering - see attached.** Our Central Office Team continues to work with each school administrator, faculty and class advisors to plan important end-of-year and extended year enrichment activities within our current remote environment.

Class of 2020

Though we are physically apart from each other, we are not in this alone! Meaningful virtual celebrations are being strategically planned to congratulate our dedicated graduates who have been affected by this closure. Virtual graduation celebrations, important dates and information will be further detailed in the upcoming weeks. ***Graduates, we are here for you!*** Connect with your fellow classmates and class advisors to finish **STRONG** and enjoy this final path of your HCST journey – virtually together.

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

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE HUDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS OF TECHNOLOGY NOT TO DISCRIMINATE IN EMPLOYMENT OR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AGAINST ANY PERSON BY REASON OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, AGE, SEX, AFFECTIONAL OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, MARITAL STATUS, LIABILITY FOR SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, OR ATYPICAL HEREDITARY CELLULAR OR BLOOD TRAIT OF ANY INDIVIDUAL, IN EMPLOYMENT OR IN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. FURTHER STATE AND FEDERAL PROTECTION IS EXTENDED ON ACCOUNT OF DISABILITIES, SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC STATUS, PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, PREGNANCY RELATED DISABILITIES, ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL PARENTHOOD, OR FAMILY STATUS." Inquiries regarding affirmative action, discrimination (including Title IX requirements), sexual harassment or equity should be directed to: Alicia Abraham, Affirmative Action Officer/504 Officer/Title IX Coordinator, Hudson County Schools of Technology, Earl W. Byrd Center, Explore Middle School, Frank J. Gargiulo Campus, One High Tech Way, Secaucus, NJ 07094, 201-662-6724 or Email: aabraham@hcstonline.org

Faculty & Staff Reporting – Attendance & Responsibilities

Our HCST staff continues to maintain the daily school district functions and operations within the means of the State's guidelines. All full-time instructional faculty and non-instructional staff working *virtually* are expected to check-in with their reporting administrators/department directors, as specifically directed by their department's administration. Staff members may be called to work *on-site* as deemed necessary by their department's administration; normal timesheet sign-in procedures will apply.

Facilities

Summer building-prep for each campus with enhanced safety measures will be provided as guidance emerges. We will keep our students and staff informed of planned procedures.

Food Services

In addition to the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus offerings, each local municipality continues to extend their Meal Program to our HCST eligible students. Check each district's local site for up-to-date information.

Tech Support

Do you need help with any of the HCST-supported applications?

Is your HCST-issued device in need of physical repair? Submit a [TECH REQUEST!](#)

On-site Tech Support will schedule an appointment with you:

Tuesdays: Frank J. Gargiulo Campus 9:00am - 1:30pm; **Thursdays:** Earl W. Byrd Center 9:00am - 1:30pm

Remain Connected

Google is the HCST approved platform within our virtual environment.

Visit www.hcstonline.org COVID-19 site for *Virtual Learning Resources & Support* page. There, you will find Educational Remediation Resources, PowerSchool and Tech Support guidance.

HCST Connections Newsletter

Editors are seeking submissions to highlight *your* community connections during this health-related closure – in your virtual classrooms, local community, etc.

Please email submissions to our public relations facilitators:

Francis O'Keefe fokeefe@hcstonline.org cc Daniel Masoud dmasoud@hcstonline.org

The HCST district-level and approved social media platforms are Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @hcstonline.

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

Continue to raise HCST School Spirit and demonstrate that though *we may be physically apart during this difficult time, we are not alone*: Please upload your photo or video: [School Spirit Submission Form](#)