

April 3, 2020

Good Evening Parents,

We are indeed living in a unique time and all of our indicators point to us being unable to return to school for an extended period of time. This being said, we have decided to implement an expanded learning schedule as well as a minor modification to our Middle School report card. We believe this is a necessary action when considering the myriad of hardships that may present themselves at this time, such as a family member becoming ill, a parent losing a job, a family-owned business that is struggling, increased and ongoing social isolation to name a few. In short, while we all desire a measure of continuity, we do not believe that traditional practices are sufficient or appropriate in the chaotic and unstable environment we currently find ourselves in as a family, a community and as a nation.

As a family we believe that supporting our students' social, emotional, and mental wellness is a core value to our belief system. We know that in order for a student to be successful in school, these three components need to be solidified before any academic learning can begin to take shape. As we approach the Spring Recess, we are sharing with you an updated schedule for all of our students that will begin on Monday, April 13th. Summaries are provided below and schedules can be found on the district web page under the [Academics](#) tab. These schedules will allow us to continue to expand on our program and deliver educational skill development throughout the remainder of this national crisis.

Standard Based Grading Third Trimester Update:

To support our families during this difficult time, the staff and administration will be utilizing our current Standard-Based report cards as our way to look at a student's ability to understand the skills and concepts as we are working on in this digital platform. Staff will focus on the knowledge and skills of assignments and they will use the standards to communicate the progress of their growth. The report card in Grades 4 - 8 has two methods to report a student's progress, a letter grade and a list of standards in each subject for the trimester. We will **not** utilize the letter grade portion of the report card for the third trimester. We will use the third trimester standards to communicate the student's progress in the development of these essential skills. This allows staff and students to fully utilize the Standard-Based report card, which has been used in the district for the past five years. Our Elementary program has been using this model for the past five years as well and we will continue to leverage this as the primary method to communicate a child's strengths and weaknesses.

Review Of Summarized Grade Expectations:

PreK- Ms. Gaspari will continue to communicate directly with Pre-K 4 families and utilize Seesaw for videos and assignments.

Kindergarten & Grade One - Kindergarten and Grade 1 will increase the weekly frequency of Zoom calls to 2 times a week. These calls will be in the 10:00 am hour set by teachers for students who wish to join. Classroom and Special Area Teachers will continue to post assignments, videos introducing new material and daily messages/to-do lists in the individual Google Classrooms. Teachers will continue to utilize Flipgrid and direct parents through Google Classroom as to how work will be submitted.

Grades Two & Three - Students will move to a blend of live instruction and independent work in the individual Google Classroom. Students can expect to "Zoom" daily with their teachers from 9:00-9:45 am for Morning Meeting and Literacy work, this will be followed by a break and students will go live one more time, 10:45-11:10 am daily for 20-25 minutes of Mathematics. **The teaching point of the sessions will be recorded and posted within the Google Classroom for those who cannot attend. Please see the main school webpage for the detailed schedule.**

Grades Four & Five - Students will move from weekly office hours to live instruction in their core subjects as well as live instruction with their Special Area Teachers (Grade 5 only for specials). The live instruction will take place Monday-Thursday from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Students will then have lunch followed by independent study and time in the afternoon for clubs, band lessons, etc. On Friday, students are encouraged to move through their individual periods for office hours and support from 9:00 am-11:00 am with one 15-minute break. **The teaching point of the sessions will be recorded and posted within the Google Classroom for those who cannot attend. Please see the main school webpage for the detailed schedule.**

Grade Six-Eight - Students will move from weekly office hours to live instruction in their core subjects as well as live instruction with their Special Area Teachers. The live instruction will take place Monday-Thursday from 9:00 am-12:25 pm. Students will then have lunch followed by independent study and time in the afternoon for clubs, band lessons, etc. On Friday, students are encouraged to move through their individual periods for office hours and support from 9:00 am-12:00 pm with one 15-minute break. **Please see the main school webpage for the detailed schedule.**

As an educator, dad and husband, I can understand the tremendous stress this has put on all of us. This has been an extremely daunting task for everyone but please know that in these three weeks there has not been a person in this district that is not working 24/7 to serve the needs of our children. I am confident that in the end this new model will be something that we can all be proud of. I know I can speak for all of our staff that we appreciate your ongoing support and patience during this extremely difficult time and we all look forward to the day that we are all back together celebrating what each one of us in Harrington Park has done.

Continue to be safe and take care of each other.

Best,
Dr. Adam D. Fried