



NEWSLETTER

Hasbrouck Heights Schools

Heights: Where Tradition and Innovation Take Flight

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHOOL OPENING UPDATE and UPCOMING EVENTS

Overall the district had a very successful opening to the school year, even amidst new mandates and uncertainty. While we still have mask mandates and other COVID related procedures in place that certainly impact staff and students, the majority of our staff and students have adjusted well.

In an effort to support our students acclimate to a full day of school, we have expanded our Guidance Department at the Middle/High School levels, and are increasing our counseling services at the elementary level.

Teachers began the school year by assessing student academic levels through Link It and Start Strong. We will use the data from these assessments to identify gaps in student performance, as well as analyze our curriculum as it relates to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. In an effort to remediate identified gaps, we have received federal COVID funds, referred to as ESSER funds, to employ four basic skills instructors.

A free lunch program has been implemented for all students, in all school buildings. This program has been met with some obstacles, as we need to serve lunch in three different locations (Auditorium, Cafeteria, and Media Center) at the Middle/High School levels. Additionally, our food services company is struggling with staffing issues, as is the case with many businesses at this time. Currently we are serving a cold lunch to students. On November 1st, we anticipate offering a hot lunch, two days per week. We are only able to serve hot lunch two days per week as we are currently serving over 900 lunches a day, which is twice as many as we served prior to COVID. By adding hot lunch two days per week, we are taxing the food companies storage capacity to its limits.

During the summer, we were informed by the South Bergen Jointure Commission (SBJC), the entity we use to supply us with buses, that bus companies were reporting a shortage of drivers, and to be prepared to have interruptions with out-of-district routes. All parents of out-of-district students were informed of this at that time. This has also impacted our athletic program. Since the start of the school year, we have experienced difficulty with scheduling buses for sporting activities. Unfortunately we do not see this improving in the near future. In an effort to alleviate the busing issue to a certain extent, we are sending home a waiver that parents can sign allowing parents to transport their own, and other student athletes, to games.

We are very proud of our students and staff and how they have returned to school with such a positive attitude. The first day of school students lined up early at the Middle/High School, and at our elementary schools, students were excited to be back. We are happy to have a full day of in-person learning for all grade levels.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8th Football Senior Night
October 14 Volleyball Senior Night
October 21st 7:30 pm next Board Meeting
October 25th 7:00 pm Strategic Planning Committee
October 25th Girls Soccer Senior Night
October 28th Boys Soccer Senior Night

A Reminder for COVID Travel Restriction Recommendation

If you will be traveling and are not fully vaccinated, please take the following steps to protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Before you travel:
 - Get tested with a viral test 1-3 days before your trip.
- While you are traveling:
 - Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and while indoors at U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas of a conveyance (like on open deck areas of a ferry or the uncovered top deck of a bus). CDC recommends that travelers who are not fully vaccinated continue to wear a mask and maintain physical distance when traveling.
 - Avoid crowds and stay at least 6 feet/2 meters (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with you.
 - Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
- After you travel:
 - Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
 - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
 - If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected. If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
- Follow all state and local recommendations or requirements.