July 24, 2020

Hardeman County Schools is dedicated to keeping our students, staff, and parents as updated as possible regarding the opening of the 2020-21 school year. As you know, this year is unprecedented and we have faced challenges that we wouldn’t have imagined this time last year. First, I would like to express my appreciation for your understanding, the positive comments and conversations, questions and concerns as we have tried to plan what is best for our stakeholders amid so much information and unknown circumstances. The decisions have not been easy in the planning process and I know the decisions for parents have been difficult as well.

HCS plans to re-open on a staggered schedule the week of Aug. 10th. The schedule for each school is on each campus’s website at www.hcsedu.org. We all have concerns about the state of the district with COVID-19 and safely returning to school. We are monitoring daily and working with multiple health care entities to keep abreast of as much information as possible. As we move forward, the changes with COVID-19 could cause an adaptation to our schedule. We plan to continue monitoring this and will provide updates and communicate any changes as soon as they are made. The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is the number one priority.

Here are some extra safety precautions we will be implementing at all of the schools for the traditional schedule:

- Temperature checks will be conducted on all people entering the building with a “no touch” thermometer. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be isolated (students) and adults will be asked to leave the building.
- Students will social distance to the greatest extent possible.
- Masks remain highly recommended.
- Hand sanitizer and soap will be available in schools and on the buses.
- Parents/visitors will have limited access. We ask that you call to make an appointment prior to coming in or conduct business via the phone or e-mail as much as possible. We understand this is a change but it is purely for health and safety reasons.
- Schools will develop protocols specific to their buildings and spend time at the beginning of the year teaching and practicing procedures and routines of the “new normal”, (i.e. flow of traffic in hallways, sign and markers for social distancing, etc). The district health and safety protocols can be found at www.hcsedu.org

Virtual Learning Information:

- Schools will hold a mandatory orientation session for these students
- Once students begin virtual learning, they are dedicated for at least one semester.
- Internet access is the responsibility of the family.
- Attendance is mandatory and will be checked daily. The same rules of attendance apply to virtual as traditional.
- Work completion will be monitored at different checkpoints throughout the semester. If students are falling behind in their progress, meetings will be conducted with their student support teacher.
- Students are expected to complete assignments with integrity. This is their learning and is integral to support their educational future.

Schools plan to hold Meet the Teacher sessions the week of August 3rd. Look for information from your school regarding these dates. Keep in mind, our reopening plans are subject to change but we will monitor the situation carefully. Although this year will look somewhat different, we are excited to be starting the school year and look forward to a successful journey with the students. My prayer is that each of you continue to stay safe and well.

God Bless,

Bobby Doyle

Interim Director of Schools