

July 21, 2020

Dear Parents:

Good afternoon. We hope that all of you are doing well during this time. Hudson ISD is very busy preparing for the upcoming school year. As we make any final decisions or have additional information, we want to share with you as soon as possible. Our goal is to have clear and timely communication with all of you.

All of you should have received our last email blast containing a lot of information about on-campus instruction. Here is a list of updated items:

- On-campus and remote instruction are still planned to begin August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- We plan to have the Enrollment Packet updated and out within the next two weeks. Our hope is to have a 'selection option' for either on-campus or remote instruction built within that packet. Please note: August 3<sup>rd</sup>, two weeks prior to school start, will be the date parents will be 'locked' into a decision regarding remote instruction. After such date, parents may choose for their children to attend on-campus instruction only after the ending of a grading period. A choice can be made at any time to move from on-campus to remote, but must remain for the time period stated above. In the event that a student contracts COVID-19 or is in quarantine for such close-contact with another, the student may be moved to 'temporary remote' and may return to campus after the period of quarantine.
- We are working on many ways to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. A listing of such things will be listed on our website one week prior to school starting.
- Perfect Attendance is not something that any of us are celebrating this year. The purpose is to reduce the likelihood that a student comes to school with any symptoms that do not need exposure to others. While this topic may sound silly, many parents have previously sent students to school ill to ultimately receive this type of award. Therefore, we will not have any celebrations or incentives this year for perfect attendance.
- Our preferred method is for on-campus instruction and remote instruction to be very similar. With such, if a student is absent for any reason, the work may still be accessible in many cases.
- There have been many questions regarding remote learning and participation in extracurricular programs. We have reviewed a number of scenarios and weighed many pros/cons regarding this subject. At this time, we feel that students who choose remote instruction **will** be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities/athletic period (middle school/high school levels). Because this is extracurricular only, transportation for this purpose will be the parents' responsibility. Please note that MS athletics is first period of the day. Parents must pick up the child immediately after the class period is over. We will not allow students to linger around the campus waiting for a ride, there is not adequate supervision for such. Failure to pick a child up on time will require

us to place them in 'on-campus' instruction for proper supervision or remove them from the athletic period.

- Most of our courses will be available in the remote instructional model. However, there are a few courses that require 'hands-on', project-based learning. A welding course would be an example of such. Therefore, if a course of this nature is taken remotely, please be aware that there will be some times that the student must be on campus to satisfy certain components of the course to receive credit.
- We are working diligently to prepare for student lunch periods. Part of our mitigation will require some distancing of students, installation of table dividers, and creating additional lunch periods as best we can. Please note that meals will be offered to all students, regardless of instructional format. However, this will look significantly different than when school closed in March. If a parent of a remote learner chooses to participate in the meal program, there will be designated times/locations for pick-up. Parents will have to pick up each meal, each day at a specified time. Meals will not be distributed in bulk and breakfast/lunch will have separate times for pick-up. Meal prices apply (Free, Reduced, or Regular apply).
- Students may experience a change of teacher from time to time. In the event of a classroom with a COVID-19 concern, teacher/substitute outage, or to balance class sizes, modifications to scheduling should be expected. A student may begin the year with one teacher and end up with another before the year is over. This is just the reality of an uncertain, ever-changing enrollment.
- Remote instruction will require adequate technology available within the home. This should be a very important consideration prior to making decisions on remote or on-campus instruction. For grades PK-2, a quality iPad/tablet device or a desktop/laptop should be sufficient. For grades 3-12, students should have access to a desktop/laptop. Please note that smart phones are not considered sufficient technology for any grade level. Will the district provide all students with a device? The short answer is 'no', not at this time. There may be limited devices available for check-out based on qualifying factors, but this is not finalized at this time. Homes need to have adequate/reliable internet service (standard DSL/Cable connection).
- We are in the process of establishing a 'Wi-Fi Zone' for remote learners in a designated area. This will likely be in the parking lot of the Hudson Gym. The purpose is to provide an area outside of the immediate campus for students to download/submit necessary documents at any time needed.

We will continue to update you on our COVID-19 planning. As always, please call or email with questions.

God bless and have a wonderful evening.

Donny Webb, Superintendent