



Hanover-Horton School District

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Mr. John Denney-Superintendent
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Good afternoon Comets!

Our teams have been hard at work preparing for the 2020-2021 School Year. We are excited to kick this year off with a great start! While you have been receiving information from each building, and will be receiving more in the coming days, here is some additional information that is important for your family to know!

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions regarding our back to school plans for this year. I can be reached at 517-563-0100 or john.denney@hanoverhorton.org.

Keep calm and Comet on!

John Denney, Superintendent

Technology: Due to the unique needs for technology this year, we are asking families to fill out an online technology registration form for each student. Our Student Technology Handbook has been updated to reflect the changes we have made for this school year. For example, we are allowing devices to go home this year and we are offering an optional insurance program for those devices. Prior to starting the [survey](#), please read our updated [handbook](#).

We have ordered hundreds of devices to make sure that students have access to the equipment that they need to actively engage in their learning. Our plan is to have a device available at school for each student. Unfortunately, there is currently a nationwide shortage of most mobile devices. Based on the earlier registration forms that were filled out, we have plenty of devices available for our students participating in the At-Home Learning Program. As our additional devices arrive, we will make them available to students in the classrooms for daily use.

Start Time Changes Are Possible: There is a possibility that the elementary school will need to have their start time adjusted in order to accommodate the required cleaning of the buses between their runs. Unfortunately, we will not know for sure how much of an adjustment it will require until we get a few days into the new school year and see which students will be riding each day. Any changes will be communicated out.

HS/MS Bus Times: In order to reduce the amount of time spent by students in the buildings before school starts, our buses will be releasing students into the building at 7:30 a.m. instead of 7:20 a.m. as in the past. As a result of this change, our secondary bus routes will be about ten minutes later than the posted pickup times. While we are getting our routes situated, please be to your stop with a few minutes to spare. Route times will become more consistent within the first few days of school.

Due to the later release of the secondary students into the buildings, the elementary buses may run a few minutes later for pick-up than they have in the past year. In between the routes, the buses will need to be disinfected before they can begin the elementary route.

Cleaning Protocols: We have taken the steps necessary to make sure that our buildings and buses will be cleaned according to the requirements of the MI Safe Schools Roadmap. New equipment has been purchased which will allow for our staff to clean more efficiently. We will be cleaning and disinfecting the buses between the secondary and elementary bus runs. On Wednesdays, we will have many of our support staff personnel assisting our custodial staff in order to do a more thorough cleaning of the buildings.

Mask Distribution: Every student participating in the In-Person Learning Option, will be given three reusable masks on the first day of school. If a student does not have an acceptable face covering, our bus drivers and offices will have disposable masks available to hand out. We encourage you to use a Sharpie or an iron on tag to clearly mark your child's name on their masks.

School Day Visitors/Volunteers: In order to reduce the potential risk of exposure to our students and staff, we will be restricting access to our buildings. Only in cases involving extenuating circumstances will people be allowed past the offices. New intercoms have been installed to allow communication between visitors and office staff to reduce interaction that would require documentation for contact tracing requirements. We truly understand that for many of you, this will be a significant change. Once it is deemed safe to resume normal operations, we will again allow volunteers and necessary visitors to return.

Face Covering Requirements: In response to the Executive Orders in place, all students will be required to wear a face covering while they are on the bus. While elementary students will be encouraged to wear a face covering in class, they will be allowed to take them off. They will need to put their face coverings back on if they leave their classroom; except for recess and once they are seated in the cafeteria for meals. Secondary students are required to keep their face covering on all day unless they are seated in the cafeteria for meals.

Students will be made very aware of the requirement and the expectation is that they will comply with this portion of the Executive Order. If needed, disciplinary measures will be taken as a result of non-compliance. Repeated violations of this requirement may result in a student being placed in the At-Home Learning Program.

Heat Days: Our staff will monitor the impacts that heat and humidity have on everyone in our classrooms. Like in past years, we may run on a half-day schedule based on the forecast. If needed, we may have all students stay home and work on their assignments online. Under the recent changes in legislation, if teachers are teaching and students are engaging their curriculum the day will count as a day of instruction. These days will be communicated out like our snow days have in the past. As with many situations this year, we will make adjustments as we work our way through the school year and gain a better understanding of the impacts our new challenges will have.

Construction: This summer, work was finally able to begin on our high school gym project. The front parking lot will have a fresh base coat of asphalt in place for the first day of school. Construction will be taking place throughout the fall and winter near the high school cafeteria. Fencing is in place and will continue to be until the project is completed in the spring.

We ran into several delays with our project this spring. One of the major items impacted was our air conditioning project. Unfortunately, we were unable to install any new units yet. The design process, in order to make sure that the electrical infrastructure could handle the load of the air conditioners, needed to be much more in-depth than anticipated. Our plan is to move forward as quickly as we can while having minimal impact on student learning. While we all want the systems to be in place sooner rather than later, we also want to make sure that it is done properly the first time.

Food Service Updates: You should have received an email this week from Alan Breneman, our Food Service Director, which contained a [letter](#) filled with important updates for all of our families; please make sure to read through all of the information. In the letter, you will find a link to a [survey](#) that we are asking families to complete in order to prepare for the demands on this department. There is also information on how to complete the application for the Free and Reduced Meal Program at <https://www.lunchapp.com/>.

More Specific Information Coming From Buildings: Each building is very unique and has their own procedures. As a result, they are all just a little bit different in their plans. Our principals will be sending out information pertaining to their buildings. If you are not getting information from the buildings, please contact the building office so that your information can be updated.

Jackson County Health Department Guidelines: The Jackson County Health Department has been in regular contact with school districts across the county and been an asset for our district as we have worked to prepare for the return of our students and staff. They have a several informative resources regarding COVID-19 on their website. To review all of their updated information, please visit their site at <https://www.mijackson.org/2295/Coronavirus>.

Screening of Students: In accordance with guidance from the CDC and the Jackson County Health Department, we are requiring students to be screened at home before they leave for school each day. The screening process is explained in the [Student Screening Requirements](#) document. By sending your student to school, you are agreeing to fulfill the required screening each day. **It is essential for the safety of our students and staff that families follow the procedures and keep your children home if they are not feeling well.**

Each building is making changes to their attendance policies in order to avoid consequences for staying home sick. While it has always been important to keep your child home when they do not feel well, it is absolutely essential that they stay home this year for their benefit and the ability to continue face-to-face instruction for all students. If it is determined that students came to school and knowingly should have been home, according to the screening process, they will likely be moved to the Learn At-Home Program.

Despite everyone’s best attempt, there are still going to be times when a student becomes sick at school. We need your cooperation in making arrangements to have them picked up promptly. It is very important that all of the emergency contact information is updated and accurate. Make sure that people listed on your child’s emergency contact list are available during school hours for prompt pick-up. Please do your part to keep everyone healthy by accurately screening your child and picking them up from school when they don’t feel well. Let’s work together to keep our students and staff safe!

Return to School Guidance for Students with Symptoms: The Jackson County Health Department has issued guidance to local school districts explaining the steps necessary for a student to return to school after having any symptoms listed in the screening process.

