Dear Hopewell Families,

We are excited to kick off a new year and cannot wait to see our Vikings back at school. In anticipation of September 8th, we know that students and families are busy getting ready for the return to school and that there is a lot of new information to digest in the coming weeks.

Contact Information
The District will be providing a lot of communication in the coming weeks. Whether your family has chosen hybrid or cyber, please make sure that your emergency contact information is up to date with the District. We want to ensure that we have a current phone number and email address so that we can reach you to share information and District updates. It will be critical for the District to be able to reach families should a student present any presumptive COVID symptoms. For the safety of your child and all of the staff and students, please be sure to provide the District with emergency contact information on the forms provided at the start of the school year.

School Supplies
All school supplies lists are currently posted to our website. You will find all materials by grade level. This year, we are permitting students in Grades 5-12 to carry a book bag throughout the school day. You may want to consider your son or daughter having a bookbag that can hold all personal items, books as well as their District device (Chromebook or iPad).

If your family has chosen our cyber program, you may also want to have some general school supplies at home. While most of the work that your child will complete will be digital, it would be great to have access to school supplies while working from home.

Remote Learning Spaces
For all families who will have students engaged in their learning while at home, either during hybrid or cyber learning, the following are some ideas for your child’s home learning space:

1. Create a space that is free from distractions,
2. Have supplies close by and easily accessible,
3. If engaging in synchronous learning, be sure that the background is a wall, window or door, and
4. Create a comfortable space where a student can remain for the time necessary to complete all necessary learning.
Facial Coverings

Facial coverings or masks are also now required while in schools, per the Governor’s Order. We would ask that you help your child become accustomed to wearing a facial covering before the start of school. Please review the following with your child(ren) so these expectations are not surprising when they arrive at school the first day.

- Facial coverings can be a mask, facial shield or any other approved facial covering from the Department of Health. It should cover the nose and mouth.
- Facial coverings will need to be provided by families, as well as laundered or cleaned. We require that masks adhere to the dress code policy (i.e. graphics or language that would not be permitted on clothing).
- Facial coverings must be worn at all times on busses and in all common areas of the building (halls, office, restrooms, lunch lines, etc...).
- Facial coverings can be removed in classrooms during “mask breaks”, under the teacher’s supervision.
- If students are socially distanced and six feet away from others, they are permitted to remove their facial covering in the classroom, under the teacher’s supervision.
- A student may be asked to wear a facial covering in a classroom, even if socially distanced, if another individual’s health is compromised. Breaks will be afforded in these settings, when needed.
- Facial coverings will be able to be removed while seated for lunch.
- A student may continue wearing his or her facial covering at any time, even if breaks are provided.

Hybrid: Learning Platforms and Blended Learning

During hybrid, students may be working remotely for 2-3 days each week from home. Principals and teachers will be providing specific expectations for students on these days, but in general, students should expect to engage in the learning provided by their teacher on the instructional platform assigned to his or her grades level: SeeSaw in grades K-2, Google Classroom for grades 3-8, and Schoology for grades 9-12. More information on how students and parents can log-in to these platforms is forthcoming.

On remote learning days, during hybrid, students should expect a blended approach to learning. When appropriate, students have the same learning experience while in class as they experience at home. For example, a student’s day of learning may include some or all of the following:

- Application of learned material from the previous face-to-face classroom day (i.e. assignments or activities),
- Watching a video or presentation from a Hopewell teacher instructing on a new skill,
- Reading an article, novel, text, book and completing accompanying assignments,
- Connecting live at a specific time with a Hopewell teacher to view instruction or to “check-in” over a specific topic,
- Watch a video from a school nurse, counselor, or principal to share information or to view specific instruction on a topic, and/or
- Engage in personalized learning software to remediate, advance, or enrich specific learning skills.

Remote Days: Time to Connect with Teachers

The District reserved time at the end of each school day where the students who are working remotely during hybrid can connect to teachers for questions or assistance. Because of this, the end of the school days will be:

- High School: 2:00 PM   Remote learners will be able to connect with teachers from approx. 2:05-2:55 PM
- Junior High: 2:35 PM   Remote learners will be able to connect with teachers from approx. 2:40-3:10 PM
- Elementary: 3:05 PM    Remote learners will be able to connect with teachers from approx. 3:10-3:55 PM
Viking CONNECT: Device Distribution for students in Grades 3-12

On August 13, you will receive information regarding Viking CONNECT, the District’s 1:1 device program. Viking CONNECT will require parents to read through information carefully, sign documents, and pay a fee for insurance of the device that will be assigned to your child for the 2020-2021 school year. Information will be later today. Pickup of the students’ devices will occur next week.

Important Dates

The following are some important dates for students and parents. You will be receiving additional information from your son or daughter’s principal regarding these important events and informational items.

- **Kindergarten Orientation**
  - A slide presentation for Kindergarten orientation will be posted on August 17 on the District and Elementary building’s websites, District and PTA Facebook pages, and on Twitter.

- **Kindergarten “Meet the Teacher”**
  - Kindergarteners will be invited to “Meet their Teacher” on August 26th from 8:30-2:30. Families will be invited at specific times on the 26th. Kindergarten teachers will send out postcards this week so students will know their teacher’s name and they will reach out to families early next week to schedule a time to visit the school and meet their teacher.

- **Fifth Grade and New Student Orientation**
  - Back to School Information will be posted on the JH and District website as well as the District and PTSA Facebook page on August 17. This will include a Digital Orientation for Families.
  - In-person, self-guided tours for new Junior High students and 5th graders are scheduled for August 24-26. More information will be provided by principals in the coming week.

- **Ninth Grade Orientation and New Student Orientation**
  - Back to School Information will be posted on the SH and District website as well as the District Facebook page on August 17. This will include a Digital Orientation for Families.
  - In-person, self-guided tours for new High School students and 9th graders are scheduled for August 24-26. More information will be provided by principals in the coming week.

- **HASD Cyber Orientation**
  - Two sessions with the same information will be offered each day. Sign up on the website to receive an invitation for these informational sessions.
    - Grades K-6: Virtual meeting at 12:00 pm or 6:00 pm on August 24
    - Grades 7-12: Virtual meeting at 12:00 pm or 6:00 pm on August 18

- **Student schedules and classroom assignments**
  - Student schedules for Grades 5-12 and classroom assignments for students in Grades 1-4 will be released on CSIU at 8:00AM on Monday, August 24.

- **Bus stop times and assignments**
  - Postcards with this information will be mailed the week of August 24.

- **Arrival and dismissal procedures**
  - Principals will share information in virtual presentations prior to August 24.
COVID cases: Parent communication

With regards to health and safety, many parents have reached out with questions regarding positive COVID cases. Once school is in session, we will alert all employees and parents of positive cases via a letter posted on the website and emailed to parents. We will also send a phone blast. We will not identify anyone as an employee or student, but will identify the building the person is associated with, if appropriate.

Additionally, contact tracing will be done by the Department of Health; the District does not engage in contact tracing, although we will support DOH’s efforts. DOH goes through a series of questions to the person who tested positive and contacts those who they determine have been exposed.

Information regarding our reopening plans as well as new district procedures and FAQs can be found on our website www.hopewellarea.org. We will also be creating videos to share additional information. These will be posted on the District website in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please contact your building principal or reach out to anyone in the District office.

With Viking PRIDE-

Dr. Michelle Miller
Superintendent