



# HIGHLAND PARK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

International Baccalaureate World School

## September 4, 2020

### Happy New Year

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. Even though we are serving our students from a distance we are very excited for the new school year and engaging with our awesome students and supportive parents. Please see some important items in this newsletter which will come out weekly on Fridays. Please connect with us if you have any questions.

### Opening Week Schedule

Please see the attached schedules. We are excited for the first week of school to connect with our students, explain course requirements, build relationships, explain the attendance taking procedures, answer questions and explain how things will work through distance learning. As a result we have adopted a special schedule for opening week. Please see the attachment. Students should log on to Schoology to connect with their teacher and their classmates which will be available on Tuesday. In the meantime they should access Campus to see their classes. Staff will be reviewing the syllabus, Schoology, attendance taking, building relationships, class logistics, course expectations and sharing office hours. In addition staff are to contact those students who have not engaged to problem solve.

### Distance Learning Class Schedule

Please see the attached schedules. It is important to note that starting on Monday, September 14 all classes meet and then for the rest of the week only certain classes meet. The schedule was designed to set the expectations at the start of the week while providing direct instruction and then continuing with direct instruction on Tuesdays-Fridays that will be supplemented with assignments students are to do at home. We will be monitoring and adjusting based on how things progress. It is very important your child is on time (better yet early) to the live classes and ready to engage. Staff will be posting and sharing the Google Meets information on how to join the class in Schoology.

### Student Classes

Students will view their classes and meet with their teachers by logging on to Schoology. Students should be checking Schoology on a regular basis for communications from their teacher on how to attend all of their classes as well as other updates. We are working to strike a balance between direct instruction, student practice and assignments at home as well as keep the computer screen time to a reasonable amount so students stay engaged.

## **Student Attendance**

There is a new procedure for attendance this year. Students are to register themselves as present each day when they are engaging in learning. Students only have to do this once a day. Go to the front page of the SPPS district website at [www.spps.org](http://www.spps.org) to view the video and the necessary specifics. Please carefully review the video and steps along with your child. In addition the staff will review it with students opening week.

## **Freshman Link Crew Event**

On Friday, September 11 from 11:00am-12:30pm students will be meeting in small groups with their Link Crew leaders. This will be an opportunity to build cohesion among a small group, make new friends with fellow 9<sup>th</sup> graders and the Link Crew leaders and learn how to successfully navigate high school while getting their questions answered. Students should look for an invite from their Link Crew student leaders. If your child has not heard from their leader by September 9 please contact Nancy Michael at [Nancy.Michael@spps.org](mailto:Nancy.Michael@spps.org)

## **Open House**

The virtual Open House event will be held on September 10 between 7pm-8:30pm. This will be a chance to meet administration, counselors, teachers, social workers and more. More specifics will be forthcoming, keep an eye on your email.

## **Student Material Pick Up**

The second phase of student material pick up will be on the two dates list below in the upcoming events section. This may include an ipad, textbooks, art supplies, and more. Students should pay attention to communication from their teacher if they need to come pick up materials. Most materials will be digital but there will be some exceptions. Students and family members are to come to the parking lot, stay in the car and wear a mask at all times. In addition if you have any remaining items that need to be returned from last year please bring them to one of these events.

## **Connecting with Counselors**

Counselors are available to assist students with social and emotional needs as well as questions regarding their schedule. You can schedule an appointment with your counselor by clicking on their Calendly link below. Your counselor will send you a Google Meet link prior to your scheduled appointment:

Jevita Baheriy, Grade 9 Capitol Hill & CCRC

<https://calendly.com/jbaheriyhighland>

Jo Skaar, Grade 9

<https://calendly.com/jskaarhighland>

Megan Pankow, Grades 10-12 Last Names A-G

<https://calendly.com/megan-pankow>

Kim Esso, Grades 10-12 Last Names H-Q

<https://calendly.com/kimberly-esso>

Kenneth Zimmerman, Grades 10-12 Last Names R-Z

<https://calendly.com/kenneth-zimmerman>

## **Woodworking Course Change**

As you can imagine learning woodworking from home is not realistic for most students. As a result we made a change and are using the course Digital Design and Fabrication. The course Digital Design and Fabrication will be a much better experience for students during distance learning. In this course, students will use digital tools to design projects. Projects in this course use many of the same digital tools that are used in a woodworking course. Provided the opportunity for hybrid or in-person instruction in the future, students will make projects out of wood. These projects will give students some of the experiences they would have in a woodworking course.

## **Long Term-Sub for Ms. Blyakher**

Those students who have Ms. Blyakher for a teacher will have Ms. BoSubait as a substitute teacher until the end of the quarter on November 13. Ms. BoSubait has served at Highland before as a guest teacher and we are pleased to have her back. Ms. Blyakher has been preparing her and has shared her lesson plans and course content.

## **Checking Assignments & Grades**

It is vital that students and parents regularly check the student or parent portal and Schoology to view assignments, scores, test grades and more. The quarter goes by extremely fast so it is essential students stay current on their assignments and connect with their teacher if they have any questions.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

September 10, 7:00pm-8:30pm  
September 11, 11:00am-12:30pm  
September 15, 8:30am- 12:00pm  
September 16, 6:30pm  
September 17, 12:00pm-3:00pm  
November 13

Open House (virtual)  
9<sup>th</sup> grade Link Crew Orientation  
School material pick up at HPSH- All grades  
PTSA Meeting (virtual)  
School material pick up at HPSH- All grades  
End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

## **End of Grading Quarter Dates**

Quarter 1      November 13  
Quarter 2      January 28  
Quarter 3      April 1  
Quarter 4      June 11