



Highland Park Senior High School

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Welcome and Greetings from Dr. Tucker, Principal

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. All of us at Highland Park Senior High School look forward to the start of the school year on **Tuesday, September 8th**. As an International Baccalaureate (IB) school we provide our students a rigorous and engaging education to prepare our graduates for college and careers. While we all wish we were physically together in our learning, we are committed to providing each student a solid education through distance learning.

Saint Paul Public Schools has been developing plans for most of the summer in anticipation of your return. Below are some district resources and websites for questions you might have regarding distance learning and district procedures.

You can find more detailed information and updates about the new school year at the following websites:

- spps.org/reopen2020
- spps.org/distancelearning
- spps.org/virtuallearning
- spps.org/backtoschool
- Highlandsr.spps.org

I will be sending more details about our plans in the coming weeks through email and I will also be posting updates on our school website. Our staff is ready to work with your student, and we look forward to seeing our students virtually to start the school year, and hopefully in person later this year if the pandemic is in better control. Please note this will be the last communication mailed to your home and all future communications will be through email, phone messages and our website.

The first day of school can be challenging, yet exciting, for students and there is no doubt this year will bring some new and additional challenges due to distance learning. Here are a few things to know so you and your child can prepare for success.

Class & Teaching Schedule

I know parents and students are wanting to know specifics about the teaching structure and schedule. Details are still being finalized at the district level to provide parameters for the planned structure. More information will be shared with you before the start of school and as soon as finalized. Please see the distance learning terms below that will be utilized:

Distance Learning Course Terms



"Whole Group" gathers to foster community and ignite new learning for all students. These are **required** for all students to participate.

Full "class" meeting→ SYNCHRONOUS



During **"Explore Independently"**, students will have a chance to explore new things and venture out on their own for a bit. This is independent work time to complete the assigned task and explore some options. These are **required** for all students.

Independent work time→ ASYNCHRONOUS



"Explore Together" (With teacher & Friends or Small Group), will be set up to dig a little deeper into the learning objectives assigned for the day. Depending on the topic or activity, these may be **optional** at times and required for some at other times.

Small groups/Tutoring/Check-In→ SYNCHRONOUS set times to work on specific assignments/ discussions/ projects/etc.



"Ask The Teacher" may take place once a day for students to pop in and ask follow-up questions around the topic assigned, seek technical support, etc. These are **optional** for students and attendance for the whole time is not required. Students are free to pop in, ask a question, and hop off when they feel their questions have been answered.

Office Hours→ set times each week when teachers are available to answer questions/work with students in specific classes.

iPad & Textbook Distribution

Most students should have their iPads from last year. If you need assistance with your iPad see the information below in the iPad Help column. If you are new to Saint Paul Public Schools you will be able to pick up an iPad the week before school starts. Further specifics will be forthcoming. Even though learning will be virtual there may be the need for access to textbooks. Stay tuned for how textbooks will be distributed as information will be forthcoming.

Connecting with Counselors

Counselors are available to assist students with social and emotional needs as well as questions regarding their schedule. Counselors will be available on the following dates and times to answer questions about student schedules:

Tuesday, September 1st from 8:00-12:00

Wednesday, September 2nd from 11:00-3:00

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>

End of Grading Quarter Dates

Quarter 1 November 13

Quarter 2 January 28

Quarter 3 April 1

Quarter 4 June 11

Freshman Orientation with Link Crew

Link crew is a student leadership organization that welcomes and orients our freshman students to high school. **Please be sure your 9th grade child attends the virtual orientation on Thursday, September 3 from 10am-12pm.** Please see flyer included.

Student and Family Distance Learning Checklist

Please view and use this technology checklist as a guide to make sure you are ready for the first day of school. This checklist is available at spps.org/fallchecklist.

One Stop

One Stop: <https://www.spps.org/ONESTOP>

Letters were mailed to all primary parents/guardians of SPPS students on July 31, 2020 with instructions on logging in.

I highly encourage you to get set up with One Stop. This allows you access to Schoology, and Campus Parent. You are also able to use iUpdate to update or verify household information, contact information, and sign annual permission and release forms for all your SPPS students at one time.

We also ask all families to complete the *Free/Reduced-Price Meal Application* to ensure that our school receives benefits that directly impact students. **Please complete the application online at <https://mealapp.spps.org/>**

I encourage you to update your contact information and get signed in to Schoology and Campus before school starts. It helps us get the school year started with all the information we need. If you need any assistance, please be sure to contact our guidance secretary Cynthia Grundmeier at Cyndi.Grundmeier@spps.org

Class Withdrawal

Classes may be dropped with a grade labeled NO MARK (NM) and will **not** be counted in the Grade Point Average (GPA) up until mid-quarter grades are finalized. If a course is dropped after the mid-quarter grades are finalized a grade of N (failed) **will** be assigned and will be included on a student's permanent transcript and in the GPA. Please see the following dates for the 2020-2021 school year:

Quarter 1 Friday, October 9, 2020

Quarter 2 Friday, December 18, 2020

Quarter 3 Thursday, February 26, 2021

Quarter 4 Friday, May 7, 2021

Classes dropped **after** the above dates will be assigned a grade of N, which **will** be included on the permanent transcript and **will** affect the GPA.

iPad Help

If your iPad is damaged or needs to be replaced, please report the issue by emailing or calling Saint Paul Public Schools Technology Services:

- Email: familysupport@spps.org
- Call: 651-603-4348 from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Please leave a detailed voicemail and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

If you are having problems with your iPad, you may also contact your student's teacher or our school. After a report is made, a member of the SPPS technology support team will contact you about replacement options to continue distance learning in Saint Paul.

If you are having issues logging Schoology or other district-approved apps, please see the information on spps.org/ipadhelp.

School Contact Information

Relationships and timely communication is more important than ever in a distance learning environment. If you have questions, or need to contact someone at school please contact your child's assistant principal via email and they will respond to your inquiry. If your question is about specific classroom academic matters please contact the teacher directly.

9 th grade: Daniel Sager	Daniel.Sager@spps.org
10 th grade: Rashmi Vashisht	Rashmi.Vashisht@spps.org
11 th grade: Abdisalam Adam	Abdisalam.Adam@spps.org
12 th grade: Abdisalam Adam	Abdisalam.Adam@spps.org

SPPS uses Blackboard Connect to alert families about important school news and information, events, weather cancellations, emergencies and more through email, phone and text. **Update your phone number, email and other contact information with our guidance secretary, Cynthia Grundmeier through email at Cyndi.Grundmeier@spps.org** or through Campus Portal. For more details, and to update your information, visit spps.org/onestop.

Open House Meeting

We will be hosting a virtual open house on September 10 at 7pm via Zoom. At this virtual meeting you can meet administrators, counselors, social workers, nurse, athletic director and more. We hope to see you there. Directions to join will be emailed and on the website.

Grade Level Presentations

Grade level presentation will be hosted by your child's assistant principal. This will introduce certain staff members, discuss expectations, school success strategies and who to contact for support. It will be posted on the website and sent via Schoology so students can watch it when they are able. In addition parents should also review the grade level presentation. Details to follow via email and on our website.

Stay connected on Facebook!

There are two Highland Park Senior High School Facebook groups to help families stay updated on school happenings and share ideas with other families. These pages are administered by SPPS parents:

[Highland Park Senior High Families and Friends](#)

This Facebook site is open to all families who have students at Highland Park Senior High School. This is a great way to keep posted on what is happening at the school, get your school-related questions answered, and applaud our amazing students' accomplishments.

[HPSHS Class of 21 Families and Students](#)

This Facebook site is for all seniors and their families. Our seniors' last year of high school will look very different, and this private Facebook page was created to communicate with each other, support our students, share ideas and help them create many good memories.

Parent-Teacher-Student-Association (PTSA)

Welcome to the Highland Park High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)

We are ready to meet the challenge of the 2020-2021 school year!

As a parent/guardian of a Highland Park Senior High (HPSH) student or a student of HPSH you are a member of the strong community that supports all students and teachers. Our community will be stronger than ever as we meet the challenges of virtual learning.

Even more than in the past, we will rely on electronic communication, virtual meetings and social media sources to keep connected. Please contact our PTSA using one or more of our communication tools:

Join the PTSA email list: <http://goo.gl/forms/Z60kDF5vIrHMNxCV2>

Find us on Twitter: @scotsptsa

Join us on Facebook at Highland Park Senior High Families and Friends:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/668231483252731/>

PTSA VALUES

With students and teachers at the center of everything we do, the **Highland Senior High School PTSA*** supports excellence, enrichment and well-rounded programming that builds achievement and the community fabric of our school. We support these values in two critical ways:

- Providing resources for students, teachers and classrooms through direct funds that support classroom and program activities and supplies; and,
- Uniting the HPSH Community through support for school-wide, enrichment and interest-based activities, events, and programs.

REASONS TO JOIN THE PTSA

- It's good for your child. Research shows that children whose parents are involved in their school make better grades and have fewer disciplinary problems.
- Discover resources to help make your child's high school experience successful.
- You'll be in "in the know." Each HPSH PTSA meeting includes an update from the principal, Dr. Tucker and other staff members.
- We are flexible. Joining the PTSA doesn't mean you have to attend every (or any) meetings. Come to meetings and other PTSA events, as your schedule allows. If you sign-up for the PTSA distribution list (HPSHptsa@gmail.com), you will receive meeting minutes and will always know what the PTSA is up to.
- Tap into the HPSH PTSA network. The PTSA is a great way to meet other parents, along with school staff, and teachers.
- It's a chance to make a difference. By sharing your ideas, concerns, and experiences you can help foster a strong sense of community at HPSH.
- We need you. The PTSA works on behalf of *all* the students at HPSH. We need your support to do this important work and be successful.

Meeting dates: 6:30pm

- Wednesday, September 16th - Review/approve budget, fundraising plans.
- Tuesday, October 13th - Elect 2020-21 Leadership
- Additional dates forthcoming

Meals

Nutrition Services will continue to provide weekly meal boxes through home meal delivery and curbside pickup while SPPS is in distance learning. All students eligible for free or reduced-price meals will receive meals at no cost.

Every SPPS family should complete an application for Education Benefits/Free or Reduced Price Meals -- regardless of family income. Not only does this help us identify families in need of assistance, it also allows SPPS to receive federal dollars for classroom programming. Applications are available online on [SchoolCafe](#), and paper applications were mailed to homes in August.

Distance Learning 2.0

- All PreK-12 students will be issued an iPad
- Distance Learning 2.0 will be a balance between any time (asynchronous) and same-time (synchronous) learning
- Students will receive daily same-time (synchronous) instruction from their teachers
- There will be daily student-to-student interaction
- Students will have access to enhanced WiFi options

More details about Distance Learning 2.0 will be shared and updated on [spps.org](#) as it is made available. To view information about Distance Learning 2.0, visit [spps.org/distancelearning](#).

If you have questions that you cannot find answers to on our website, please contact your child's assistant principal. You may also call the Parent Help Line at 651-767-8347 or email family.engagement@spps.org for assistance.

School Calendar

A copy of our calendar will be posted online on our website once finalized. Please note that dates may change as the year progresses, and updates may be posted from time to time. For the full district calendar, visit [spps.org/calendar](#).

Health and Wellness

Immunizations

Even though SPPS students will start the year in distance learning, it's important to make sure your child's immunizations are current and provide records to your child's school. Learn more at [spps.org/studentwellness](#).

COVID-19 Student and Family Guidelines

Saint Paul Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our students, staff and their families. To ensure this commitment is met, we have developed and will continue to revise the [COVID-19 Guidance for Students and Families](#) in response to the ever changing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Student Mental Health

We recognize that school closure, distance learning, and COVID-19 may cause extra stress to many in our school community, including families, students and staff. Reach out to our school counselors or our social workers for support for your child's mental health and to be connected with [community resources](#), where appropriate.

Our social workers are:

Jane Schwark	Jane.Schwark@spps.org
Lora Horan-Kimsal	Lora.Horan-Kimsal@spps.org
Carissa Franklin	Carissa.Franklin@spps.org

Our Counselors are:

Jevita Baheriy, Grade 9 Capitol Hill & CCRC Jevita.Baheriy@spps.org
Jo Skaar, Grade 9 Johanna.Skaar@spps.org
Megan Pankow, Grades 10-12 Last Names A-G Megan.Pankow@spps.org
Kim Ezzo, Grades 10-12 Last Names H-Q Kimberly.Ezzo@spps.org
Kenneth Zimmerman, Grades 10-12 Last Names R-Z Kenneth.Zimmerman@spps.org

Sport Physicals

Students in secondary schools need a physical exam every three years to participate in sports. Download a copy of the physical exam form from spps.org/sports and take to your health care provider. For questions please contact Patrick Auran at Patrick.Auran@spps.org