

Hardyston School District

Welcome back to school update! August 18, 2021

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! Even though we are still faced with challenging times, our school district has charged forward with upgrades, improvements, and is more equipped than ever to meet the needs of your children. If you follow me on Instagram, you have seen some of those upgrades, which include new boilers at the elementary school, a main office makeover at the elementary school with an upgraded air ventilation system, an even more attractive media center at the middle school, and there are many more improvements to come. Additionally, we now have a full-time Reading Specialist and a new Math Interventionist position. Both positions will assist students by targeting their most pressing needs and will help teachers learn useful Tier 1 strategies. We have also increased intervention support during the school day in both schools. Our ability to identify the academic strengths and weaknesses of your children allows us to give them exactly what they need in order to make tremendous gains.

I would also like to introduce new members of our Hardyston teaching family:

- Christine Reder, 4th Grade
- Abigail Higgins, 4th Grade
- John Torppey, 7th Grade Mathematics
- Rebecca Schick, Middle School LLD

The parent portal will be open for teacher assignments, schedules, and bus information beginning on August 23rd. If you need help accessing the portal, our secretarial staff would be happy to assist you. Please just call the office. Parents that need to drop off medications for their children may do so on September 2 from 8:30-3:30.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, please remember that we are in a much better situation than we were at the start of school last year. All students will be full-time, in-person, every day, with minimal restrictions. The "COVID-19 Protocols" in the section below outline the district's plan for our return to school in just a few weeks. If any of the following guidelines change, I will be sure to update you as soon as possible, as always.

I welcome an open dialogue and communication with the community. If you have any questions, please contact me. I am looking forward to a successful return to school.

Sincerely,

Mike Ryder
Chief School Administrator
Hardyston School District

COVID-19 Protocols

Health and Safety Protocols

- Temperature checks
 - Temperatures **will not** be screened upon arrival at school
 - Parents are asked to continue to take the temperature of their child(ren) before leaving for school. If your child has a fever of 100.0 or higher, please do not send them to school
- Transportation
 - Students must wear a mask while riding the bus
 - Social distancing on the bus will be enforced, when possible
 - Siblings will be sat together
 - Windows on the bus will be open, weather permitting
- Masks
 - All students, educators, and staff will be required to wear face masks inside of the classroom and hallways when students change classes, regardless of vaccination status for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year
 - Masks are not required outdoors, but social distancing is still required
 - Face shields are not a substitute for a cloth face covering as they do not provide enough protection from aerosolized particles. Masks with vents are also not permitted
- Frequent handwashing will be part of the daily schedule.
- Each classroom has a properly working and well maintained univent system that circulates air in each room
- Classrooms
 - Desks have been spaced out 3 feet for social distancing, when possible
 - Students will not be changing for physical education classes
 - Students in grades 4-8 will be assigned lockers
 - All students will travel through the building to attend their classes
 - All teachers will maintain seating charts in the event that we need to contact trace
 - Classroom materials and toys will be shared. Students will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands before and after use
- Lunch
 - Lunches are FREE again this year
 - Elementary school - to ensure social distancing, students will eat lunch in either the cafeteria or in the gym. Students will be spaced out and lunch will be delivered to the students in their seats
 - Middle school - students will be spaced out as much as possible in the cafeteria and they'll have the opportunity to eat outside as weather permits
- Playgrounds will be open this year. Students will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands before and after recess
- Band and chorus will continue and we will follow recommended guidelines in order to practice safely
- Visitors

- There will be limited access inside the buildings. Items will be able to be dropped off or picked up
- To every extent possible, meetings with parents and outside agencies will take place remotely utilizing an online platform, such as Google Meet. Any person entering the building will be required to sign in and wear a face mask. This will ensure the security of our building as well as secure the visitor's contact info for contact tracing purposes, if necessary
- Class parties with visitors will not take place

Sanitizing/Disinfecting

- Schools will be fully cleaned and sanitized at the end of each school day
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular daily basis. We are currently working with our contracted bus providers, as well as the rest of the regional districts, to ensure the buses are cleaned and sanitized as often as possible between runs.

COVID Compatible Symptoms

Parents should not send students to school when they are sick or waiting on COVID-19 test results from anyone in the household. Students with the following symptoms cannot come to school. Please contact the school nurse if your child has these symptoms:

- At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever, chills, rigor (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; **OR**
- At least **one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.

Virtual Instruction

Students are now entitled to virtual instruction **only** under the following circumstances:

1. a student or a student's immediate family member (living in the same household) has COVID-19 or is still waiting for test results
2. a student has been identified as a close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
3. a student has COVID-19 compatible symptoms and is required to quarantine

If any of the above scenarios apply to your child, the school will provide synchronous instruction during the quarantine period only. Please allow one school day for your child's teacher(s) to arrange for this. Same day requests for virtual instruction are not possible to honor as teachers need time to prepare and parents need to pick up learning materials and technology. ***Please note that virtual instruction is only provided for COVID-19 situations. Virtual instruction is not permitted for students who will be absent for vacation, appointments, or reasons other than COVID-19.*

If your child is quarantined, instruction will occur live during the school day. Our district uses Google Classroom as a platform for all assignments and Google Meets for video conferencing. Should your child require virtual instruction on a temporary basis, your child's teacher will use Google Meet to host live, synchronous teaching and Google classroom to share documents. In the elementary school, the teacher will be the one to communicate specific login times for live instruction and will share the Google Meet link. In the middle school, students will follow the bell schedule and are expected to login to the Google Meet link for each class at the beginning of the class period. Students in grades 2-8 will be reminded how to use Google Classroom and Google Meet by their teachers. This way, in case a quarantine must take place, students are familiar with how to login and learn virtually. For students in the elementary school, teachers will reach out to parents directly with logins, passwords, Google Meet links, and schedules.

Google Tutorials

Google Classroom and Meet tutorials for parents, caregivers, and students will be shared in our Weekend Update and posted to our webpage so that all understand how to access virtual instruction if your child is required to quarantine.

Technology

If a student is quarantined and cannot come to school, arrangements can be made for a chrome book and/or hot spot to be used for the duration of the quarantine period, if needed. Chrome books will stay in school unless needed during a quarantine period.

Summer Work and Supply Lists for September

This folder contains links to summer work and supply lists for the summer.

2021-2022 School Year Calendar

Follow us on Instagram

Follow the Elementary School on Instagram

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