

South Hackensack School District

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Jason Chirichella, Acting Superintendent/Principal
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November 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. Together, we have made it through our first marking period of the 2020-2021 school year, and although there have been some bumps along the way, our teachers and administration have received an abundance of positive feedback. Many have expressed their gratitude for the smooth operation of our building procedures, the warm and welcoming environment, and the consistent communication by our faculty/staff that keeps our students engaged and connected whether they are attending on the hybrid or fully remote model. Above all, parents/guardians have shared their appreciation for our teachers, who are leaders in this new learning environment reflective of their preparation, dedication, patience, empathy, and engagement with the students.

As we approach the second marking period and Phase II of our reopening plan, we have had valued input from all of our stakeholders. We received feedback from our staff on Phase I from a teaching perspective, especially given the new expectations of the hybrid and remote schedules, as well as recommendations that would enhance the educational experience for students in Phase II.

The start date for **Phase II is Monday, November 9th and will go through Wednesday, December 23rd**. This will be effective **Thursday, November 12th**, once our school returns to in-person instruction. It is important to note that the second marking period goes until January 29th so our Phase II timeline is different from Phase I. Doing so will allow families of full remote students the opportunity to choose to return to in-person instruction for the beginning of Phase III on January 4th. In December, we will share a survey asking those families for their choice. Many students who were fully remote for Phase I will be returning to the building for the hybrid model.

After disaggregating both the Phase II survey as well as our most recent survey for our Prekindergarten and Kindergarten schedule, grades 1 to 8 will continue to operate on the hybrid model. In an effort to increase instructional time for our youngest students at Memorial School, we are transitioning our Pre-Kindergarten class to a 5-day in-person schedule and our Kindergarten class to a 5-day AM & PM session schedule. All previously hybrid PreKindergarten and Kindergarten students would now be attending everyday Monday through Friday; PreKindergarten will attend from 8:45am-1pm and Kindergarten will attend for one continuous 2 ½ hour session (AM:8:30-11am & PM:12:30-3pm). We will continue to comply with social distancing requirements and classroom capacity during Phase II.

In order to better accommodate families for the arrival/dismissal window of time and allow for increased instructional time for Phase II, we have made a slight adjustment of times. Please see the chart below of the changes highlighted in yellow.

In-Person School Reporting Times

Please note that any changes in reporting times for Phase II have been highlighted for your convenience

- Staggered drop off times to arrive during select time windows:
 - PreKindergarten: Arrival: 8:45 - 9:00 am Dismissal: 1:00 pm
 - 1st & 2nd grade: Arrival: 8:30 - 8:45 am Dismissal: 1:00 pm
 - 3rd - 5th Grades: Arrival: 8:30 - 8:45 am Dismissal: 12:45 pm
 - 6th - 8th Grades: Arrival: 8:15 - 8:30 am Dismissal: 12:45 pm

- Kindergarten:
 - AM Session: Arrival: 8:20 - 8:30 am Dismissal: 11:00 am
 - PM Session: Arrival: 12:20pm - 12:30 pm Dismissal: 3:00 pm

It is important to remember that our district follows the recommendations of the CDC and the New Jersey Department of Health. As we are upon several holidays and long weekends (NJEA Convention, Thanksgiving, Christmas), that traditionally have been times of travel for some families, please consider Governor Murphy's guidance that only essential travel takes place. Remember to check the New Jersey travel advisory for a current list of states on the quarantine list and know that the list is updated frequently; therefore, it can change while you are traveling. If you visit a state on the list, there is a required 14-day quarantine period upon returning home.

These are challenging times. Whether it is travel or celebrations at home, we have to all do our best to keep ourselves and others safe and healthy. Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we continue to work through the COVID-19 pandemic and provide the safest schools possible for our students and staff. We look forward to continuing to work together to make this a great year for our students! For your convenience, I have attached the updated arrival/dismissal schedule as well as the hybrid calendar for November.

Sincerely,



Jason Chirichella
Acting Superintendent/Principal