

Hilltop Re-Entry Updates - July 28, 2020

Dear Hilltop Families,

SummerFun is wrapping up nicely! It has been so great to have at least a portion of our community together again in person, as well as a useful test run for new health and safety procedures to be implemented this fall. There is lots to do to prepare for this new way of schooling, which will be learning curve for us all. There are a few things we would like to highlight as we move closer to August and the start of school.

- We hope you have had a chance to read through the [HMS Re-Entry Plan](#), or will be able to soon. **It is crucial that each family read the Plan thoroughly before the start of school.**
- Pending state or county-wide change, **we are planning to begin the school year in groups of 25 or less (including adults)**, as outlined in the HMS Re-Entry Plan. Even if the state allows us to open with pods of 50 or more, we will choose to start at this more protective level. We are able to keep these groups of 25 completely separate, never sharing bathrooms, hallways, or outdoor areas. We feel this is the most sustainable and protective scenario. (If we need to go to 15 or fewer, we do not have the same options for complete isolation of the groups.)
- **Outside time will be the priority.** Science shows that being outside is the most protective option. All programs will be spending as much time as possible outside. Each classroom has their own designated outdoor space that can be used for work time, eating, and playtime.
- **Before and AfterCare will only be provided should HMS move to pods of 75**, as outlined in the Re-Entry Plan.
- HMS will **not be able to provide pizza lunch, bagel lunch, or After School Enrichment Programs** for the Fall Semester.
- Certain annual Field Trips will need to be cancelled or altered, and it is more important than ever to **read the weekly Newsletter and regularly check the [website calendar](#), as they will be your main source for updates on special dates.**

- We would like to remind you to **discuss and practice the use of face coverings with your children in the weeks before school**. We will be requiring that all students come to school with two clean masks. We have heard, and found, that people need to find a style that works best for them. Children do well with ones that have been chosen at home. We will have back ups available, but these should not be relied upon. We recommend referencing [this mask practice guide](#) and [this mask schedule](#) to assist you.
- Back to school packets will be sent out to each family in mid-August. Packets will include a copy of the **Shared Responsibility Agreement, to be filled out, signed, and handed in to teachers at drop off on the first day of school**, as well as a **health screening reference** to keep in your car, and a **Summer Letter** from your student's teachers.

Lastly, **HMS will be closed August 3rd through August 7th**. Admin will be happy to resume correspondence on Monday, August 10th. As always, we thank you for your partnership and flexibility as we navigate this new normal. If you have any questions regarding the HMS Re-Entry Plan or the start of school, please contact the [Front Desk](#) or [Tamara](#).