

HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

Dr. Matthew A. Spelker
Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Beverly Vlietstra
Interim School Business Administrator



Dr. Mary Donohue
Principal/Director of Curriculum

Mr. Chris Magno
Director of Student Services

August 30th, 2021

Dear Harding Township School Community:

Thank you for your patience as we have been finalizing plans for our school opening on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. We received an update from the State on Friday, August 20, 2021 and I am sharing key details with you. Hopefully this will give you guidance as you look forward to sending your children back to HTS.

In *The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021 - 2022 School Year*, the State sets forth recommendations for districts. To date, the **only** mandate is mask wearing for all individuals (students, faculty, staff, visitors...) in school settings. To that end, HTS will adhere to the following protocols, all of which are subject to change as we move further into the year together:

- HTS will follow a regular, full-day schedule (8:20am – 3:15pm)
- Masks will be worn by all individuals when indoors
- Masks do not need to be worn outdoors
- Families and faculty will be required to complete a one-time COVID form (not a daily form)
- Temperature checks will be taken daily for arriving students
- Within classrooms, three-feet of physical distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible
- Desks will face the same direction and grouped seating arrangements will be avoided to the greatest extent possible
- Only one student will utilize restrooms at a time
- Frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing will continue
- Students will use hand sanitizer before entering the cafeteria
- Snack will take place outside as often as possible
- Lunch will occur in the cafeteria with partitions on each table
- During indoor PE students do not need to wear masks when distanced (PE will occur outside as often as possible)
- All rooms utilized by faculty/students will be equipped with HEPA filters
- Students will utilize lockers
- Students must wear masks on buses
- Middle school students will move between classes
- All specials classes will occur in their designated classrooms and all students will travel to their specials
- Sports and extra-curricular activities will occur

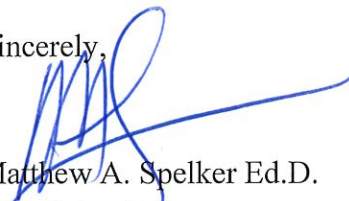
COVID Exposure and Quarantine:

HTS will follow all rules set by the New Jersey Department of Health for contact tracing and quarantining. Current guidelines specify that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine if they are exposed to a COVID- positive individual as long as they are asymptomatic. NJDOH has **not** released its guidance for quarantines for non-vaccinated students who test positive or are a close contact of a COVID positive individual. As soon as this information is released, I will share it with our community.

As you will recall, HTS was enormously successful in protecting the health and safety of all students and faculty members last year. We are very proud of what we accomplished last year and we are committed to a similar track record in 2021 – 2022. To that end, many of the protocols we are following are based on what we saw, firsthand, were effective in keeping individuals healthy and keeping our school open. While last year was challenging, many valuable lessons were revealed, all of which will help inform decision-making this year.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Sincerely,



Matthew A. Spelker Ed.D.
Superintendent
Harding Township School

Cc: Dr. Mary Donohue- Principal/Director of Curriculum
Mr. Christopher Magno- Director of Special Services