

## BEGINNING OF THE YEAR - What do the first few days look like?

For our students in Cohort 1, in-person learning will begin on Tuesday, September 8, while our students in Cohort 2 will start the year at home on a virtual learning day. On Thursday, Sept 10 & Friday, Sept. 11, Cohort 2 will be on-site and Cohort 1 will have virtual learning days. The calendar below outlines the first few months. *Please note, due to iPads shortage, our at-home days will likely need to be modified until our iPads arrive. This will likely include some phone check ins and paper pencil activities.*

### Hybrid Learning Calendar - *Wednesday Flex Day*

Aug. 2020 (5) 1				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

Sept. 2020 (20) 20				
M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

Oct. 2020 (20) 19				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

Nov. 2020 (19) 18				
M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

#### KEY

- Connection Day ■
- Cohort 1 ■
- Cohort 2 ■
- Flexible Learning Day ■
- No School ■
- Teacher Workshop ■
- New Teacher Workshop ■

#### Dates at a Glance

Aug. 20-21	No School - New Teacher Workshop
Aug. 24- 26	No School - Teacher Workshop - All Teachers
Aug. 27	No School - Teacher Workshop/Staff. Dev.
Aug. 28	No School
Aug. 31 - Sept. 3	K-12 Connection Day
Sept. 4	No School
Sept. 7	No School
Oct. 14	No School - Elem./MS/HS Conferences
Oct. 15 & 16	No School - Teacher Assc. Days
Nov. 25	No School - Workshop
Nov. 26 & 27	No School - Thanksgiving Break



### Does every student get a device? Is it required they use the school provided one?

We are in the process of purchasing iPads for all students to use this school year. Due to the volume of iPads ordered by schools this summer, there is a slight delay in the delivery of these devices. We will communicate with families as they come available. iPads will be used to support learning both at school and virtually. We will need students to bring their iPads back and forth with them each week. For those students with iPads at home, parents may wish to have the school iPads remain at school. If this is the case, please communicate your plan with your child's teacher.

### What would be a normal class size?

Most in-person learning groups are 12-16 students.

### Will my child be sharing supplies with other students?

Students will not be sharing common classroom supplies like they have in the past. Students should have a pencil box to store their individual supply of pencils, markers, scissors, glue, etc. In addition, teachers will direct students on where to store any supplies they were asked to bring for their class. Some items may be collected and stored by the teacher for later use (i.e. extra pencils, extra glue sticks, etc.).

### **BUSING & TRANSPORTATION - How will the busing and drop-off/pick-up be different this year?**

Drop off times will be from 9:20-9:40. Students will be dropped off in the parent drop-off/pick-up areas and walk directly to their classrooms. If having breakfast, they can pick that up on their way to the classroom. Kindergarten students can walk into the school on their own. The students who do this adapt very quickly and feel empowered to be independent. If they are having breakfast, they should stop by their classroom and then head to the cafeteria for their grab & go breakfast.

### **How will parent pick-up work this year?**

At the end of the day, students will be dismissed for parent pick up in a similar fashion to past years. Kindergarten students follow the same process as the rest of the students. They adapt to the process very quickly. Usually they need a little help reminding them to watch for their vehicle. It is very helpful to teach them how to identify you and your vehicle.

### **AT SCHOOL DAYS - What will a typical in-school day be like?**

A typical in-school day will consist of:

- Breakfast opportunity (Grab & Go option available to all students)
- Class meeting and social-emotional learning experiences
- Reading lesson and opportunities to practice their literacy skills
- Phonics, Vocabulary and Spelling lesson and practice (Words Their Way)
- Writing lesson and practice
- Math lesson and practice (Bridges & Number Corner)
- Lunch
- Recess
- Grades 1-4: Art, music, physical education, & computer lab experiences will be done on a rotating basis
- Some students may receive additional support during the day (Title 1, ADSIS, English Learner, and/or special education services)

### **Are there plans for recess/lunch procedures?**

Students will be asked to clean their hands (washing or sanitizing); 1) prior to entering the school, 2) before and after eating, 3) before and after outside activities, and 4) after using the bathroom. The playground areas will be divided into smaller zones. To limit exposure, students will play with classmates from their learning group.

### **Will students be able to get a regular hot lunch and breakfast?**

Students will order their meal in the morning with their classroom teacher using the same process as they have in the past. There will be two options daily, a hot entree or a cold sandwich option. Staff will serve all components of lunch and place the food items on the trays for the students.

### **Will the students be moving between classrooms?**

Students will have the same classroom space where they will learn from each day they are at school (students will not be traveling between classrooms). When students have the computer lab aide scheduled with their grade, they may have the opportunity to go to the computer lab for a portion of their day (similar to the experience in a traditional school year. Staff will make sure spaces are disinfected before another group uses the same computer).

### **Will my child see more than one teacher?**

Yes, at times. In order to provide smaller learning groups while at school, each grade level cohort will be divided into three learning groups. Core instruction will be provided by two of the grade level teachers. By including specialist staff members within this cohort, we are also able to provide students with ongoing instruction within art, music, physical education, and digital learning.

### **MASKS - What are the mask expectations?**

Students in kindergarten through twelfth grade will be required to wear masks while at school. Masks must cover both a student's nose and mouth. Acceptable masks include the following types: paper or disposable, cloth, scarf, bandanna, neck gaiter, religious face covering. Masks will be provided for students who do not bring one from home. A student must have documentation to be exempt from wearing a face covering. Documentation will be kept in the health office. (A face shield would then be expected). The wearing of masks and social distancing will continue into the recess time to help mitigate risks. We recognize there will be times when students will need to remove their masks while remaining socially distant.

### **AT HOME DAYS - How will distance learning at home this fall differ from this past spring?**

Here are a few ways distance learning will be different this fall...

- 1) Teachers are planning lessons to have a learning focus continue through a five day cycle. Each cycle will begin on their first day being onsite for that week. Lessons will be designed to support student learning throughout the five days and gradually release more responsibility onto the students to apply the learning independently by the end of the cycle.
- 2) Students will have synchronous (live sessions) of small group support by their cohort teachers. This is planned to take place twice a day on the non-flex days. These scheduled lessons will be delivered by their cohort teachers. These live Zoom sessions will be staggered, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, so teachers can review needed material, assignments, and content to help students learn & work independently.
- 3) Seesaw will have a consistent structure throughout the grade levels to ease support by family members.

Flex days will focus on asynchronous (independent) learning activities and expectations. Teachers will have office hours to support students and for families to ask questions/check in. This will allow teachers to make individual connections with families and students that have specific/special needs. Distance learning will focus on synchronous (live) small group sessions where teachers can review earlier learning, deliver new content and set learning/work expectations for that day. We are planning for two, 35 minute sessions on the non-flex days.

**Even though we made an early decision to order iPads, we have recently learned that our shipment has been delayed. In the event we do not have devices ready for students, all off-site learning days will be asynchronous (independent) and needed materials will be sent home with students on their on-site days. Our Hastings Online Academy students will have priority to get devices that are currently available. Attendance will be taken during students' Zoom sessions. When a student cannot attend the live session, students will have access to content via Seesaw. As students complete their activities, credit for attendance will be updated.**

Families should continue to notify teachers of vacations/sick days to help gather needed materials for learning to continue. In most cases, students will be able to access learning content remotely.

## **HASTINGS ONLINE ACADEMY - Can you tell us more about the HOA?**

Students participating in HOA, will get a communication from the building inviting them to sign up for a virtual meeting with the teacher next week, just like Hybrid students. Moving forward, they will get information communicated to them from their HOA teacher. We are working to prioritize iPad inventory to be ready for distribution in order for regular HOA school to start Sept. 8th. In the HOA model, students will have paper/pencil activities as well as digital experiences. In addition, students will have live scheduled Zoom sessions with their teacher. Some will be whole group sessions while others will be small groups. The needed workbook & paper activities will be made available for pick up. Specialist experiences is a work in progress at this time and further details will come late September. Students will need supplies at home to help fulfill their learning needs. Those items may include: pencils, glue, whiteboard marker, whiteboard, and notebooks.

## **HEALTH & WELLNESS - Due to the evolving changes with COVID protocols, what is the school's current expectations?**

We will follow Dakota County Health and the Minnesota Department of Health's guidelines to support our district's protocols. People's health conditions are confidential. If there is a communication to send out, it will be sent out in collaboration with the district.

If there are specific health related questions, please feel free to contact our school nurse.

Specifically, if a student needs to be quarantined for a period of time, they will have access to content through distance learning format.

Family members are the first line of knowing what their child's symptoms are and how they are changing. Family members should be taking students' temperatures as a precautionary measure. We expect families to monitor this and adhere to the recommendations given when students have symptoms. It is critical that families do not send students showing symptoms to school. In some cases, students will show symptoms at school. In these cases, students will be checked by our licensed medical staff, and when appropriate will wait in an isolated location, families will be contacted and appropriate medical attention/action will be needed to take place. Please do not send sick students to school in hopes they make it through the day.

## **Parent/Guardian Student Daily Symptom Checks**

One of our best defenses against the spread of COVID-19 is to teach students universal measures, such as maintaining social distance, wearing a mask, and proper hand washing. This summer, students attending Camp Horizons did a great job with all three of these. We anticipate students continuing to do a fantastic job listening to teachers and following our directions. When students aren't following expectations, we will follow similar actions that we use for other behaviors.

In the event of a positive case, custodial staff will focus cleaning on the areas where that student was. During short weeks, cleaning will take place after school to help mitigate risks.

## **OTHER**

**If my child gets into kids campus Monday through Friday, will they be able to ride the bus home each day or just on her in-school days?**

Just on their in-school days.

**What is being offered for the gifted & talented students?**

In recent years, students in grades 3 & 4 were clustered with a group of students and placed with the GT teacher. In many cases this remains the same. This year is going to be a little different, as teachers will need to collaborate across Cohort 1 & 2 to ensure differentiation is consistent.

**What is going to happen with school pictures?**

School pictures for hybrid students will take place on Tuesday, September 22 for cohort 1(A) students and on Thursday, September 24 for cohort 2(B) students.

Online academy students will have their picture day on Tuesday, September 8th from 3-8 PM at the Hastings High School Auditorium. [Check out this website for pre-order information and how to schedule a specific appointment.](#) The deadline to pre-order pictures for HOA is Thursday, September 10.

**If the hybrid choice is not working for any family will we be able to choose the DL model at any time?**

We are asking families to try and commit to a model, as adapting staff to meet this changing variable is very difficult. Please contact your building principal and the situation will be reviewed on a case by case basis.