

HUNTINGDON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 1 Huntingdon, PA 16652
Phone: (814)643-1080 Fax: (814)643-3800 Website: <http://huntsd.org>

Mr. Travis R. Lee,
Principal

Mrs. Kristen C. Streightiff,
Assistant Principal

"ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES"

August 13, 2021

Dear High School Parents and Guardians:

We are looking ahead to the beginning of a new school year at Huntingdon Area High School as the summer comes to a close. As your child's principal, it is my privilege to work with your learners at HAHS, helping them to grow academically and to acquire all of the skills that they need to become college and career ready. Our staff is working hard to make this a productive and challenging school year for your learners.

As we experienced the challenges of learning through the pandemic over the past year and a half, and switching between various learning models, we hope that we can focus on providing consistency this year to the extent possible. Information regarding school procedures related to our district's health and safety plan are shared below. We will be following many of the same procedures in regards to protocols, as last school year, though there are changes, particularly with masking guidance.

Please review the information below that highlights important information to start the year, coming dates, including the Rachel's Challenge Community Night, as well as key areas of focus for the school year. As we approach the start of the year, we are sharing the information below to ensure that everyone is updated with the most current information. We appreciate your time in reviewing this information with your learner and family.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL/START OF YEAR INFORMATION

- Classes begin on **Wednesday, August 25, 2021**.
- On the opening day of school, learners may enter the school through the main entrance at 7:30 am. Upon entering the building, learners should report directly to their homeroom after storing their belongings in their lockers. Learners must be in their assigned homerooms by 7:48 am. Please see additional morning arrival information in the Covid-19 Health and Safety Update below.
- Homeroom assignments will be listed in The Daily News "Back-to-School Issue."
- HAHS will utilize the same Daily Bell Schedule as last year. The school day will end at the usual time of 2:43 pm.
- Learners should bring their **Student IDs**, issued last school year, with them on the first day of school. These will be utilized during the lunch periods. **Breakfast and lunch will be free of charge again this year.** New IDs will be issued after fall school pictures.
- Learners that have **any materials or iPads to return from the 2021-2022 school year** should **have these items with them the first day of school**. Our school did a great job with returning items at the end of the school year - good work!

- **Your child's schedule for the 2021-2022 school year is now available to view via the Skyward Family Access portal.** Please carefully review the schedule and note that schedules were developed in the Spring to ensure that each learner has at least 6.0 credits, but not more than 7.0 credits, to align with post-secondary choices. Your learner will be eating lunch during the 4th period time frame. Learners will receive their specific lunch time from their 4th period teacher. The 2021-2022 Scheduling Packet is posted on our website at <http://www.huntsd.org>. Click on "High School," then "HS Guidance" to proceed to the specific page where you can find this information. Note that classes will not be dropped to add a study hall.
- A separate memo regarding the beginning of the year (BOY) forms and emergency information will be sent via Skylert. Please complete and submit the Google Form with this information by **September 3, 2021**.
- The Learner Handbook will be available online at the high school website. A Skylert message will be sent when the Handbook is published. Please review the contents of the handbook with your child and complete the Learner Handbook/Acceptable Use Policy acknowledgment with the BOY forms.
- Freshmen and New Learner Orientation was held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. The presentation is available to view under the Useful Link/Info on the High School website.

NEW SCHOOL PERSONNEL

We are pleased to announce that we have current HASD teachers in new positions at our High School this year. We are looking forward to working with these individuals as they serve your children.

- Mrs. Susan Bilich - Music Teacher and Choir Director
- Ms. Lori Evangelisto - HS/MS Emotional Support Teacher
- Mr. Matt Rakar - Technology Education Teacher

In addition, we also have a change in building leadership. Mrs. Kristen Streightiff is the new Assistant Principal at HAHS. Mrs. Streighiff comes to us from teaching ELA and Social Studies at the Huntingdon Area Middle School, has 23 years of experience at HASD, 24 years overall, and is a Huntingdon Area High School graduate. Her knowledge and experience will be an asset to our school. Please welcome her to our school!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **William Penn Highway Rivalry Game (First Home Football Game)**
 - Friday, August 27, 2021, 7:00 PM, War Veteran's Memorial Field vs. Mount Union
- **Rachel's Challenge Community Night**
 - A Rachel's Challenge Community Night event will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 in the HAHS Auditorium in the HS Auditorium. Please see the enclosed letter for additional information about Rachel's Challenge
- **School Picture Day**
 - Thursday, September 16. Make-Up Day: Thursday, October 28
 - Inter-State Studio will be our school picture provider
- **Homecoming Information**
 - Spirit Week: October 11 - 16
 - Homecoming Football Game: Friday, October 15
 - Homecoming Dance - Sponsored by Key Club: Saturday, October 16

In order for your learner to get the most out of school this year, we all need to work together, keeping the lines of communication open between home and school. We will make every effort to keep you informed about class and school activities, and update you regularly regarding your learner's academic progress. Your learner will also benefit from your direct involvement in his/her education, including creating a positive work environment within the home, and reinforcement of school expectations. We will continue to share information about the learning process and the activities involved in helping your learner to develop the skills to become college and career ready.

We hope you and your learner(s) have had a wonderful school year. Please check with your learners daily for news and information about upcoming events scheduled at the High School. If you have any questions or concerns you can reach me at (814)643-1080 ext 2136. We hope to see you at these coming events!

Sincerely,

Travis Lee,
High School Principal

SPECIAL UPDATES/HIGHLIGHTS

SKYWARD/FAMILY ACCESS USE

Please see the enclosed flyer about the various information that our student information system, Skyward, can provide to your learner and family, including information about grades, notifications, attendance, and food service. **We are strongly encouraging that all families revisit their Skyward Family Access portal, and if one is not set-up, to contact the High School Office.** It is very important that the contact information in Skyward for your family is current and updated. We will update information in the system based upon the information supplied on the beginning of year forms at the start of the year.

STOMPER PROJECT

- HAHS is partnering with the Huntingdon Police Department and the Jana Marie Foundation to bring the STOMPER Project to our learners. This project is designed to use art, music, stories and other forms of creative expression to educate the community about mental health and serve as a catalyst for positive change. Our project will focus on suicide awareness and prevention, in order to “stomp out” the stigma that surrounds mental health and to spark conversation within the community. The project will entail a presentation by the Jana Marie Foundation staff and active participation in constructing a statue that will remain at HAHS.
- ***We will ask learners that wish to participate in the project to sign up during the first week of school.*** Specific Pd. 4 classes will also be able to participate in the project.
- You can learn more about the project by visiting this website: <http://www.stompersproject.org/>

PARENTAL INPUT/COMMUNICATION

- HAHS is developing a Parent Advisory Committee during the 2021-2022 school year.
- This committee will help to share information about school happenings, gauge family input regarding goals and objectives for the school, and to provide updates regarding the school’s 5-year Future Ready Comprehensive Plan.
- If you are interested in participating in the Parent Advisory Committee, please contact Mr. Lee for additional details.

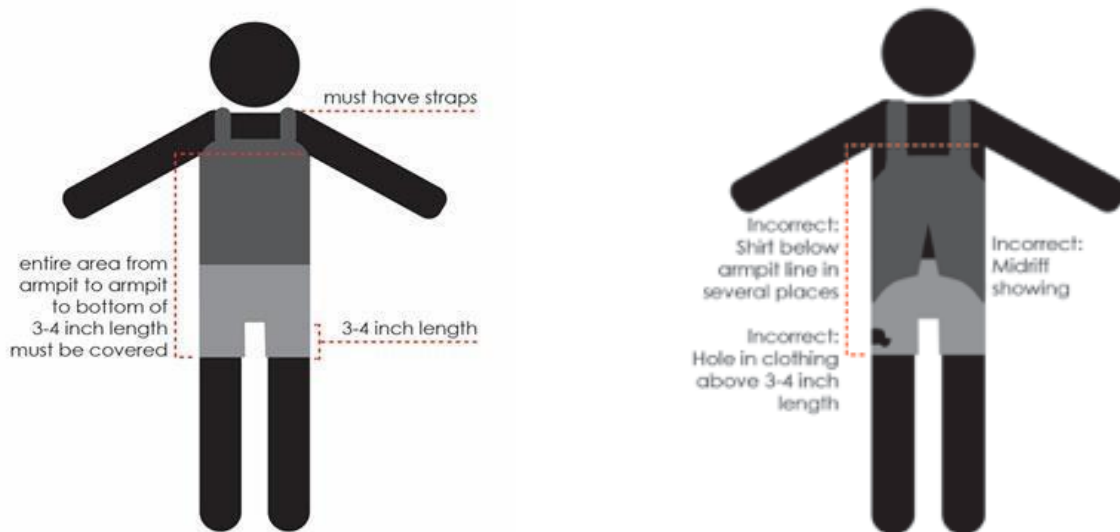
HANDBOOK UPDATES

- **Cell Phone/Device Update**
 - Non-instructional electronic devices (cell phones) are not permitted to be on the learner's person during the school day. Upon arriving at school cellular devices should be powered off and stowed in a learner’s backpack, purse, and/or locker and not retrieved until after the end of day dismissal bell.
 - Learners will be able to use their iPads for educational purposes.
 - We hope that these new device expectations will help to remove distractions so that our students are focused on learning.
- **Dress Guidelines Update**
 - There are changes to the dress guidelines to add clarity to the expectations. The full listing of the guidelines will be in the Learner Handbook. A key highlight and a visual diagram is shared below.
 - Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to approximately 3 to 4 inches in length on the upper thighs. Tops must have two

straps. Rips or tears in clothing should be lower than the 3 to 4 inch coverage area. See through or mesh garments may not be worn without appropriate coverage underneath that meet the minimum requirements of the dress code. Please see the diagram below.

Dress Guidelines Diagram

Appropriate Dress Example and Inappropriate Dress Example



ATTENDANCE UPDATES/HIGHLIGHTS

Please review the attendance procedures within the learner handbook. Consistent attendance is extremely important for learner academic success, growth, and development. Listed below are important attendance notes.

- Learners have 3 days to turn in an excuse (form, handwritten, doctor's note, email, fax)
 - Excuses are to be submitted to the High School Office
 - Direct excuse to Mrs. Deb Stitt, Attendance Secretary
 - Email: dstitt@huntsd.org Phone: (814)643-1080 Fax: (814)643-3800
- After 10 cumulative days of absences, a medical excuse must be provided for future absences
- Unexcused absences can lead to a Student Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC) and proceedings with the District Magistrate.
- Partial Day Absences
 - Learners missing 1-2 periods of the school day will be considered tardy
 - Learners that are absent between 3-4 periods will be considered ½ day absent.
 - Learners that are absent 5 or more periods will be considered absent for a full day.
 - Please note that tardy and early release periods will be totaled toward total days absent, and excessive tardies and absences may result in truancy proceedings.

In addition, please note that **learners must be in school by 9:30 am in order to participate in extracurricular contests/practices** for that school day.

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN INFORMATION/UPDATES

Face Coverings

- Bus & Van Transportation - Face coverings must be properly worn at all times.
- Face coverings are optional but are encouraged to be worn in the school setting.

Water Stations

- Water fountains will not be used. Learners should bring their own water bottle that can be filled at the water stations.

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

- Frequent and thorough hand-washing and use of hand sanitizer is expected.

Lockers

- Learners will be permitted to use lockers at HAHS this school year.
- Learners will not be permitted to congregate at lockers.

Hallway Traffic Patterns

- The same procedures are in place as last year. Learners are to walk on the right side of the hallway. There will be some hallways where a unidirectional flow will be instituted to mitigate cross traffic. These hallway patterns will be reviewed with learners.
- Stairwells will be listed as “up” or “down” for traffic flow. There will be two up and two down stairwells.

Lunches

- 4 lunch periods will be utilized to reduce the capacity during each lunch. There will be a 3 foot distance used between learners.

Classroom Social Distancing

- There will be 3 foot distancing in classrooms to the extent possible.

Morning Arrival

- The same procedures as the previous school year will be utilized.
- Middle School learners will be dropped off at the Middle School starting around 7:30 am. The buses will then proceed to the High School to drop off HS learners.
- **Student Drivers** - Plan to arrive at the school and enter via the main entrance between 7:30 to 7:45 am. Park and proceed to the building. Do not wait in your vehicle, and avoid congregating and entering the school in one wave.
- **Parent Drop-Off of Learners** - Any learner being transported by their parents to school should be dropped off within the bus loop of the high school. We ENCOURAGE those parents that can, to please drop off your child(ren) between 7:30 - 7:40 am at the HS/MS. After 7:40, if you could avoid driving into the loop, that would greatly assist our busing plan.
- Please obey all traffic laws and remain patient during the busy arrival time.

Quarantine Guidelines

- **Learners that are Positive for Covid-19**
 - Quarantine for 10 days.
- **Close Contacts**
 - We will identify close contacts that have been within a 3 ft. radius for 15 minutes or longer of the person that tested positive for Covid-19.
 - Close contacts must quarantine for 10 days or take a PCR test after day 5 with the earliest return being day 8 with a negative PCR test.
 - Same household close contacts must quarantine for 20 days or take a PCR test after day 15 with the earliest return being day 18 with a negative PCR test.
 - If a same household close contact is able to isolate from the person that is positive for Covid-19, then the quarantine for the close contact will be 10 days or

take a PCR test after day 5 with the earliest return being day 8 with a negative PCR test.

- **Quarantine if Fully Vaccinated**

- Students do not need to quarantine if identified as being a close contact if they are fully vaccinated, unless they have symptoms.
 - Proof of vaccination must be submitted to the school nurse
- However, fully vaccinated students must wear a mask for 14 days, or until receiving a negative PCR test 3-5 days after exposure.

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Dear High School Parents and Guardians:

On Tuesday, September 14, 2021, the High School and Middle School will be hosting a Rachel's Challenge Community Event at 6:30 pm in the auditorium. The Community Event will provide information to families about Rachel's Challenge, and the information that is shared with learners during an assembly earlier during the school day.

The Rachel's Challenge Community Event introduces Rachel and her story by using her writings and stories from her life. The Community Event shows the profound positive impact we have on those around us. It demonstrates to the listener the power of deliberately reaching out to others to start what Rachel called a chain reaction of kindness and compassion. The Community Event encourages participants to examine their own lives in the light of the following 5 challenges.

CHALLENGES:

1. Look for the Best in Others
2. Dream Big
3. Choose Positive Influences
4. Speak with Kindness
5. Start your own Chain Reaction

The Rachel's Challenge Community Event is recommended for seventh grade learners and older. Childcare will be provided by the HS Student Council and the Key Club in the HS gymnasium for any sibling that is not of the recommended age.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions, and we hope to see you on Tuesday evening, September 14.

Sincerely,

Travis R. Lee,
High School Principal