

Dear HCCS families,

We hope that your summer has been safe and enjoyable. We are looking forward to the start of a new school year and opening our doors for face-to-face instruction with your children. We have been excitedly preparing our classrooms and campus in preparation for the first day of school on August 23rd, 2021.

As we open our doors, Idaho continues to monitor its cases of COVID-19. With that in mind, HCCS Board of Directors and school personnel will also monitor our local community spread of COVID-19 and its impact on the school. We will continue to work toward anticipating the needs of our students in order to have a successful in-person school experience this year. We believe our students' educational needs are extremely important and our teachers, administration and support staff will continue to work to that end.

Our intent is to open up the school year with face-to-face instruction as outlined in our HCCS Board Approved Reopening Plan, developed in conjunction with feedback from SW District Health and other health and state leaders, which includes details on what the stages of schooling would look like based on school and community spread of COVID-19. Please review the reopening plan, found on our school website, and keep in mind, as many health leaders in our nation have stated, "no single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions (as listed in our reopening plan) can greatly reduce that risk" (American Academy of Pediatrics). As you're also aware, plans of this nature are subject to change as increased understanding of the virus and best practices for reducing community spread change. We appreciate your patience as such changes occur.

Some highlights and updates included in the Board Approved Reopening Plan include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Facemasks are optional
- Daily temperature checks of all staff and students upon entering the building will continue
- Parents are encouraged to check students' temperatures and screen for symptoms of Covid-19 prior to sending them to school
- School community events will be conducted virtually in order to minimize large group exposures to COVID-19. (Meet-the-teacher, open house, PTSO sponsored events, assemblies, etc.)
- Daily and frequent cleaning and disinfecting of common areas/frequently touched areas will continue
- Procedures are developed for parents and visitors to the school, following CDC guidelines. We ask that you please call ahead prior to arriving at the school. Non-essential visitors will continue to be restricted from campus
- Procedures will continue to be in place when a child, visitor or staff member becomes sick at school

- Based on the fluid situation of the current pandemic and its effect in our community and school, the HCCS school board will continue to work closely with school administration and health officials in making decisions on the status of face-to-face instruction for the current school year. These considerations will be based on consultations with health experts

We appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we work to make sure we are making the most timely and informed decisions as possible. As the school year nears, please monitor school communication for additional clarifying information for your family. Your help in assisting us with the safety protocols listed above will go a long way toward keeping our students and school personnel healthy.

We look forward to proving a safe and excellent school year!

Sincerely, HCCS School Board and Dr. Castaneda