



July 15, 2020

Dear HSA Families,

I hope everyone has had a safe and healthy summer. We have been working hard to develop a “back to school plan” for the Middle School which balances health and safety concerns with academic goals for our students. This will be the first of several communications for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Please read carefully.

The Governor has recently released new guidelines for schools. We are finalizing our plans to incorporate those recommendations and to create a plan that will allow us to easily adapt to evolving situations between now and the start of school, as well as throughout the school year, if needed. We will continue to update the plan and will email and mail out updated information as we have it finalized. Right now, there are two important things you need to know.

1. **The first day for students has changed.** The first day of school for students will be August 25, 2020. An updated calendar is included in this mailing and will be posted in the ConceptSIS announcements and on our school website at ms.horizoncolumbus.org. This change allows us to provide teachers with more professional development related to the new learning environments and allows us to prepare multiple plans to best serve all our students in today’s unique circumstances created by the COVID-19 virus.
2. We are offering **2 types of learning environments** for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. **Parents will need to select one of the options for each of their Horizon students in grades 6th, 7th and 8th by the end of July** so that the school can plan appropriately. **Regardless of which option is selected, all students will be assigned a school Chromebook which will be checked out for the school year. Below are the 2 learning options.**

Option A: 100% Online Learning- students will learn 100% online by zooming into live taught classes, watching recorded lessons, and completing assignments on the Chromebooks from home. They will not be coming to the building for instruction. Students choosing this option will also receive specials and Social and Emotional Learning activities. Parents and students will receive training on the technology and the expectations of 100% online learning. Work will need to be completed on a structured schedule, according to those expectations. Appointments will be made to meet with teachers for training and for baseline testing.

Option B: Hybrid Learning- consists of several days of in-school learning and several days of remote learning. Students will have in-person classes at the school a few days a week in smaller class settings with appropriate health and safety precautions put in place. Extra precautions include: increased cleaning, sanitation stations, masks or face shields, limited sharing of supplies, and decreased transitions. Students will complete the remaining days’ instruction online from home. Students will be assigned at-school days on a Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday schedule. The 3 days they are not in the building, they will be assigned work to complete online and will participate in some video



conferencing activities using Zoom. Parents and students will receive training on the technology and the expectations of Hybrid Learning.

Please fill out the enclosed sheet for each child attending HSA Middle School to indicate the learning environment you want for your student this school year. Return this sheet to the office either in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope or drop it off at the school office in person or return the completed form by email to jgibson@horizoncolumbus.org. **Forms need to be returned by July 30th.** Our office is open Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm, if you choose to drop off the form in person.

NEW STUDENTS TO THE BUILDING: If you are attending classes at the Middle School for the first time, please note that if you will be riding the bus at all this year, you will need to complete an online transportation request as soon as possible by going to the following link. **This includes any 6th grade student who attended HSA Elementary School.** www.ccsch.us/transportation.aspx

Sincerely,

Principal

*Any change to a child's learning environment (moving from online to in school or vice versa) will be based on the availability of space in the environment and may take several days to reschedule.

(Over)



PLEASE RETURN TO THE OFFICE BY THURSDAY, JULY 30th.

This information will assist us in finalizing our plan and providing more detail for the next step.

Student Name (first and last name) _____

Grade for 2020-2021 _____ Date of Birth _____

Learning Option Selection - For the 20-21 school year my child will be learning by:

_____ 100% Online Option: students complete all learning activities from home under a structured schedule with deadlines and some specifically required log-in times

_____ Hybrid Option: 2 days in school and 3 days of remote learning. **(Every effort will be made to assign your student on the preferred days, but this is not a guarantee of scheduling.)**

_____ I prefer my student to come to the school building on a Wednesday/Thursday schedule

_____ I prefer my student to come to the school building on a Monday/Tuesday schedule

Home Internet Connection: Check the situation that applies to your student.

_____ My child has access to internet service in the home.

_____ I will need help securing internet service for my child to learn online.

Transportation

_____ My child will be picked up and dropped off by a parent or family member/friend

_____ My child will need bus transportation. (Students new to the Middle School building will need to complete a transportation request at www.ccsbh.us/transportation.aspx)

Parent Signature

Date