August 11, 2020

Dear HVS families,

The Huron Valley Schools Board of Education voted unanimously at a special meeting Monday evening to begin the school year in the following manner:

- Students in grades Junior Kindergarten through 7 will begin the 2020-2021 school year on Monday, August 31 in a face-to-face hybrid option with two days of in-person instruction and three days of remote learning while the State of Michigan is in Phase 4 of the Governor’s MI Safe Start plan. Details regarding programming at the Apollo Early Childhood Center are forthcoming.
- Students in grades 8-12 will begin the school year with two weeks of remote instruction and will transition to a face-to-face hybrid schedule on Monday, September 14.
- All HVS students have the option to enroll in the Huron Valley Virtual Academy, taking advantage of a 100 percent online experience. The deadline for enrolling is the end of the day Wednesday, August 12. After August 12 the district will begin a waiting list for any additional enrollments. Enrollment in the HVVA requires a semester commitment.
- For families who choose face-to-face learning in the hybrid model, the district will assign students to either A Group or B Group. Students in A Group will attend face-to-face on Mondays and Thursdays and remotely on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Students in Group B will attend face-to-face on Tuesdays and Fridays and remotely on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Parents will learn of student assignments (in either A or B group) no later than Monday, August 17. Designation in Group A or Group B will be made by address, not by last name, so that siblings attend in person on the same days.

In finalizing their decision, board members cited the following:

1. A vast majority of HVS families prefer some form of in-person instruction to a fully virtual model.
2. By implementing the hybrid model, only half of the student population will be in a school/classroom at any time. Fewer students in a building allows for maximum social distancing. On a typical day in the hybrid setting, elementary classrooms will have between 10 and 15 students per classroom and secondary classrooms will have between 14 and 18 students.
3. Support staff from buildings that begin fully remotely may be redeployed to assist in other buildings for the first two weeks of the school year.
4. A phased in approach to starting the school year will allow the district to assure proper support for all of the new actions/activities required to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Dr. Paul Salah, Superintendent
Contained in the district’s COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, is a series of safety protocols, hygiene requirements and operational supports. Per Governor Whitmer - Executive Order 2020-142 (COVID-19) (June 30, 2020), the district will now submit its plan to Oakland Schools and post to the HVS website no later than Monday, August 17.

Over the next several days, we will work to communicate detailed information to families regarding implementation of our plan, including expectations for students as we return to school buildings. I want to thank our families for their continued patience and support as we’ve worked with great intention to develop robust plans to engage our students while maintaining a safe environment. Please continue to check our Return to School and HVVA pages on our website for updated information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Salah
Superintendent