



~Welcome Back to School~
2020-2021

Dear Heath Brook Families,

Forgive me for calling upon the overused phrases of 2020, but there are no other words that can accurately describe it all! After an *unprecedented* spring, followed by an *unprecedented* summer, we are faced with the *unprecedented* opening of school. This *new normal* we all have been faced with have tested our limits of patience, anxiety, worry, and the uncomfortable feeling of not always knowing the best course of action. As a fellow parent, I am quite familiar with all of those experiences. During these times, I have leaned upon a quote from author Glennon Doyle: "Just do the next right thing - one thing at a time."

Learning to live in the moment, without being able to see as far down the road as we are used to, has been a challenging adjustment. In just a few days, that road will lead to Heath Brook School - and it will certainly be different than in the past. What I can reassure you is what remains the same: Heath Brook is overflowing with teachers and staff that are committed and caring, and are looking forward to welcoming you and your student(s) back to school. Please read on for some updates and reminders.

Who's New at the Heath Brook:

I'm so pleased to introduce our newest Heath Brook staff members to you. I'm thrilled each one of these talented professionals is joining our staff, as they bring a wealth of knowledge and great passion for working with children.

- ***Mrs. Sandra Bransfield*** is our front office secretary.
- ***Ms. Jessi Ragazio*** is our new Grade 1 Student Aide
- ***Ms. Lily Ith*** is our new DLC Student Aide
- ***Ms. Katie Buck***, our K-2 Certified Instructional Aide, willing to be moved to Grade 1 to cover Mrs. DeCarol's classroom
- ***Ms. Maria Campo***, our Kindergarten Aide, will be covering Ms. Hendsbee's K classroom
- ***Ms. Hendsbee, Mrs. DeCarol's and Mrs. DePierro*** will be teaching/supporting our Remote Learning Academy.

Heath Brook Hours and Learning Cohorts

Cohort A students (last name A-K) will be in school on Monday and Tuesday of each week; Cohort B students (last name L-Z) will be in school on Thursday and Friday. School on these hybrid days begins at 8:45 and ends at 12:45pm. Once students return home and have their lunch break, students will be expected to engage in on-line learning until 3:05pm. All students will be in remote learning on Wednesdays. The first day of school is ***Wednesday, September 16th***, which is a remote learning day.

Remote Learning Academy students will follow a similar schedule of learning from home Monday - Fridays from 8:45am - 3:05pm. Your child's teacher will explain his/her schedule in more detail.

Please click [here](#) to learn more about the PreK-4 Remote Learning Academy.

Updates from the Heath Brook School Nurse

Welcome Back Heath Brook Families! Just a few reminders as we set sail for the new school year. Due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic, the CDC is mandating that all students who attend in school learning to be flu vaccinated no later than December 31st. Please supply documentation once complete to the school nurse for our records. You may also fax it directly to me at 978-640-7868.

Also please send something in writing to your school nurse if you chose to opt your child out from using hand sanitizer.

To combat the coronavirus spread we ask that you self monitor your child prior to coming to school each day. Please keep them home when feeling unwell.

Symptoms list, for reference:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Nasal congestion or runny nose

Lastly, please notify the school health office if your child has had any changes in their health so that I may better serve your child's needs. Thank you for your cooperation during this sensitive time.

Karen Rossi, BSN, RN
Heath Brook School Nurse

Tewksbury Public Schools Mask Wearing Protocol

The protection a well-fitting mask provides has been well-documented and is integral to the successful re-opening of schools. Students and staff are required to wear them at all times while in the building, waiting at the bus stop/outside the building, and on the bus. As stated in the TPS Initial Face Mask Protocol (sent home to families on 9/10/20):

Masks can be disposable or reusable and will need to: fully cover the nose and mouth and secure under the chin, be made with at least 2 layers of breathable material, fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, and be secured with ties or ear loops. Based on guidance from health authorities, neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas and face-covering containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind will not be considered appropriate masks.

We are here to help our students be successful following this important procedure. Students are expected to come to school with the appropriate style of mask, as are any visitors to our building. We do have extra masks to supply to students in the event their mask does not fit the above guidelines. If you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to me.

Heath Brook Building Updates

Our building looks a bit different this year, but the most important thing to know is that our custodial and maintenance crew has worked incredibly hard to make sure Heath Brook is prepared and ready to accept students and staff. We have organized our classrooms to maintain a 6-foot distance between students, and we have been appropriately stocked with cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer. Circular stickers have been affixed to the floor and seats to cue students where to stand or sit when in a larger space, and arrows show directional pathways for walking. Signs are posted reminding the habits of good hygiene and hand-washing steps, and teachers are prepared to oversee and reinforce these routines

Home-School Communication:

In order to strengthen our home-school communication, the Heath Brook is always looking for better ways to stay connected to our students and their families. Below are some of the tools the Tewksbury School District implemented to make communication easier and more efficient:

- **Tewksbury Public School Website:** [TPS Website](#)

- **Heath Brook-Trahan PAC Website:** Please visit the new website at <https://www.hbtpac.org/> to stay up to date on the latest information sent out by Heath Brook School-Trahan PAC community.
- **Critical Information forms now accessible online:** To reduce the amount of paper we send home to you, we have made electronic versions of some of the forms for you to read and sign. **Please use the following links to fill out each of your children's Accident & Illness form in preparation for the 1st day of school, Wednesday Sept. 16th 2020.**

Please click here: [Heath Brook Accident/Illness Form](#)

- **Student Handbook:** Please make sure that both you and your student take the time to review the online student handbook. We make changes to the handbook each year and it is helpful for families to be familiar with the handbook and its contents. All parents must verify they have reviewed the handbook by completing the on-line Elementary Handbook Sign Off by **Friday, Sept. 25th, 2020.**

Please click here: [PreK-Gr.4 Elementary Handbook](#)

Please click here: [Elementary Handbook Sign Off Form](#)

- **Aspen Accounts:** Please click [here](#) to learn more about Aspen, which is our secure, web-based school information management system that organizes all facets of student data – from attendance to conduct, grades to schedules, transcripts to activities. Tewksbury has been using Aspen for many years with great success. The Student Portal has been implemented and is available to all K-12th grade students.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures:

Each year, we reflect on our drop-off and pick-up procedures to make sure that we have systems in place that allow students to get to school safely and efficiently. We are also pleased that Tewksbury Public Schools provides such reliable bus transportation to all students. We encourage families to utilize this resource, as it is an exciting part of our students' school experience. ***However, if you choose to drive your child to school in the mornings and afternoons, we kindly ask that you review the following procedures.***

Arrival Procedures:

- Please click [here](#) for a helpful visual map that outlines this year's drop off procedures.
- Drop off begins at 8:25 am. Staff members are not on duty to monitor students prior to that time
- Enter into the parking lot (far left) and remain in the single file vehicle drop-off line
- Wait for staff members on duty to signal that it is time for your student to exit the vehicle
- Safely exit the parking lot in a single line
- Please **DO NOT** park in the lot during morning drop off, unless you have specific permission from the principal.
- Make sure your child has their mask on before exiting the vehicle.
- At this time, there is no morning recess. Students will enter the building after exiting their vehicles.

Dismissal Pick Up Procedures:

Since students will only be at the Heath Brook School two days per week, we ask that parents use a consistent pick up plan that is the same on both days. Students who are being picked up will be dismissed from the cafeteria, sitting in assigned cafeteria seats while being supervised by Heath Brook staff members.

- Dismissal begins at 12:45pm.
- At dismissal time, parents will enter the parking lot in the same location as morning drop off ([visual map](#)) and form a line by the cafeteria entrance.
- Each parent/guardian will hold up a personalized pick up card that includes the following information: STUDENT NAME, HOMEROOM TEACHER, GRADE (Click [HERE](#) for sample).
- If parents do not have their provided cards in their car or are not driving a car which matches our records, they must park and wait until all dismissals have been completed prior to their child being released.
- Parents wait in their car.
- Dismissal teacher will walkie the names of the students from the first 4 cars. Students will be walked out to the cars.
- Dismissal teacher will check the car information for each student on the information sheet prior to releasing the child to the driver.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring their child is buckled safely before driving away.
- Parents: Please be considerate of other parents and complete all pickup routines as quickly as possible.

***WALKERS** - Parents, please communicate that your child will be a walker with the homeroom teachers. Walkers will be brought to the new bike rack at the opening of the driveway to the upper lot (in front of the cafeteria). Parents will meet staff and students at that location at dismissal. Please have an ID on hand until staff gets to know you - thanks!

**ALL PARENTS MUST COMPLETE THE HEATH BROOK DISMISSAL FORM BY MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 14TH**

Please Click Here: [Heath Brook School Dismissal Form](#)

Breakfast & Lunch

Did you know that the USDA has extended funding so that ALL children can get breakfast and lunch at school? (Hopefully these monies will last through the remainder of 2020.) On the days students are at school, we will take a meal count like we always have. The food will be packaged and delivered to students at the end of each day to be eaten at home (not on the bus). There will also be curbside meal pick-up for hybrid students on their remote days, and for all Remote Learning Academy students. Food Service has more information accessible on the district website, or through this direct link: [TPS food services](#).

Opportunities to Get Involved:

We actively encourage our families to get involved in their child's school experience! Keep an eye out for upcoming information on ways to participate as a volunteer or as a member of a council. Consider joining the Heath Brook Community by:

- ~**Serving on the Heath Brook School Council**~
- ~**Becoming a member of our PAC (Parent Advisory Council)**~
- ~**Lending a hand at a PAC organized event**~
- ~**Volunteering to support your child's classroom**~

Upcoming Events:

There's lots of exciting events in the coming weeks! Add these important dates to your calendar!

- **Wednesday, September 16th: First Day of School (all learners remote)**
- **Thursday, September 17th: first day of in-person school for Cohort B**
- **Monday, September 21st: first day of in-person school for Cohort A**

Approximately 6 months ago, students and staff left their school buildings at the end of the day, and did not return. I think we are all looking to this week ahead with a mixture of excitement and worry. Please be assured that while we have no past experience of what hybrid school looks like, we have years of experience witnessing the great joy and warmth Heath Brook teachers and staff lavish on your children. In a world that has changed so much in six months, that hasn't changed at all. We are looking forward to our days ahead together!

In partnership,

Felicia Cenanovic, Principal

