

Principal's Sunday Message to Parents and Students for Week of August 30 –

We look forward to the return of all students tomorrow, Monday. Teachers have been working to prepare for classroom instruction all last week. Remember, our goal this year will be to connect to students, deliver instruction at an appropriate level and pace, and make sure the building is safe and all COVID protocols are in place.

I am including a link to our bell schedule which has the start and finish time for the day (7:45-2:30) along with the class, enrichment, and lunch times. School doors open at 7am and students need to be ready for classes and in homeroom by 7:45. Remember, drop-off for students being transported via car, is the cafeteria entrance around the back of the building (head straight back toward the water tower). All other students arriving by bus are dropped off at the auditorium entrance. The front of the building is kept free of cars for bus drop-off. Please heed the directions of Officer Croft, Hereford's SRO, along with other personnel who will be stationed everyday beginning tomorrow to help direct traffic.

It is imperative that students wear a mask and wear it properly. No ifs, ands, or buts – When riding on the bus to and from school, or from the time students walking into this school building, masks must be worn. Please stress this rule and the importance to your child. Only while one is eating at lunch will there be an exception made. I am all about keeping everyone safe and reducing any chance of having something happen that would prevent us from normal operations.

Hereford High School's Webpage – Information for Bus Schedule and Bell Schedule

This year's bus schedule – including bus numbers, pick-up and drop-off times, and site locations can be found on the school's webpage. Find it in the top maroon banner over to the right.

The webpage also provides information regarding the school's bell schedule, teacher email addresses, COVID mitigation practices, along with my weekly messages and lots of other important information. I invite you visit it frequently for updates. It is easy to find and accessible to all. Hereford High School's PTSA also posts these weekly messages to their PTSA Facebook page. The school's webpage address is - herefordhs.bcps.org.

Student Schedules and Homeroom Assignments

Personnel with lists of names and homerooms will be stationed in the halls tomorrow morning before the start of the day to direct students to correct homerooms and classrooms. We don't want anyone panicking. We'll get all students to the correct homerooms and classes throughout the day. Because of last minute staffing changes and in an effort to keep classes balanced and at safe numbers as a COVID mitigation strategy, Ms. Book has worked through last week adjusting schedules. For this reason, students will receive an updated (green) schedule tomorrow in their homerooms. Rest assured, no student has been placed in a different course from the original, but some

students may have been moved around to help with balancing. All students should follow the green copy of their schedule they receive in homeroom.

A Word About Student Lunch Periods, Lockers, and Enrichment Information

Information regarding locker assignments and combinations, enrichment, and lunch periods will be distributed in homerooms on the first day of school. That information is not available on student schedules so don't look for it. Ninth grade students who attended Bull Night and Early Entry Day were already given locker information but it will be reviewed again during homeroom tomorrow.

Devices

School personnel swapped out devices for appropriate high school ones on Friday for incoming 9th graders. However, if we missed a student or something distributed didn't work properly, Assistant Principal Ms. Hickman, will be available to make things right and has a plan to distribute devices to those who need one tomorrow.

Back to School Night

In my efforts to keep everyone safe, *Back to School Night* will be virtual this year and will be done as we did it last year. Parents will be provided the opportunity to see a brief video put together by your child's teacher. It will provide a course overview and other important information including the best way to contact the teacher. More information will be sent home this week along with the date.

Focus Access for Parents

This was published last week in the BCPS tech highlights but wanted to make sure all parents are aware of this information. Starting on August 23, 2021, parents should have been able to log in to focus (BCPS's Student Information System) and Schoology (BCPS's Learning Management System). These systems have not been accessible for parents since the malware attack and are important as they are two crucial tools that allow parents to monitor their children's academic progress.

To sign up, parents will need to create a parent account with the same email address that they have provided to their school and as long as the parent is marked in FOCUS as having educational access, they will be given access to their student's information (the system takes up to 30 minutes to process these accounts). Then, within 48 hours, their parent connection to Schoology will be established. There is a link within FOCUS that will take parents directly to Schoology. If a parent clicks the Schoology link before the connection is established, the parent will receive an error message. Parents can contact Hereford High School to resolve any issues with this process.

Bull Night for Incoming 9th Grade Students

Thanks to all ninth-grade students and parents who attended last Thursday's Bull Night. It was great to see so many students touring the building and locating classes and lockers and other areas. Thanks also to all who followed the staggering arrival times.

Early Entry Day for 9th Grade Students

A special thanks goes out to Ms. Butler and Ms. Erline, the two ninth-grade advisors who will travel with the ninth grade for the next four years. They did an excellent job creating a schedule which allowed the incoming ninth grade to participate in activities on Friday to get to know the school and its staff. I also wanted to recognize their grade level administrator Mr. Covert, who addressed the students and provided them with some tips for success. By all accounts this looks to be an exceptional incoming class. We are all excited to get started working with them.