

Week of September 20 –

Good afternoon parents and students – We start this week on Monday with an A Day. Five days of school this week. No interruptions, other than maybe a required fire evacuation drill.

Late To School

For those who drop off in the morning, leaving 5 to 10 minutes earlier will get your children here on time and avoid traffic back-ups. Our drop-off in the back is working well now and because of that any student arriving late, after 7:45, is now marked late, unexcused, unless there is a legitimate reason to be late. Accumulated lates to school will result in student consequences and doesn't look good on report cards. If your child drives to school or you drop-off, plan the morning to anticipate traffic and be here in time to make homeroom on time which starts at 7:45.

Enrichment

Enrichment is working well. Ask your children where they are signing up for Enrichment and to explain how Altimely, an app on their phones used for signing up, works. Enrichment is an excellent time during the school day for your child to spend some time working with any of the teachers to clarify assignments, review concepts taught in class, get help with homework, or catch up on missed work. Students who utilize Enrichment time wisely, perform better academically.

Homecoming and Related Activities.

Hereford High School's Homecoming football game is scheduled against Dulaney High School on October 29, in our stadium. To keep students safe and healthy from COVID infections and having to quarantine, BCPS announced last week that some of the traditional activities associated with homecoming have been suspended. I am currently working with our students, class advisors, our PTSA and community leaders discussing some acceptable alternative activities to celebrate homecoming and not short-change our students from being able to participate in this event safely.

Fall MSDE Testing Information

Last week I shared with you the vigorous testing schedule Assistant Principal Hickman has put together to accommodate all the required testing MSDE has mandated for public schools. We begin testing on Monday with the MCAP English Language Arts test for all grade 10 students (later all 11th grade students will be taking this test also). We plan to test seven groups of students in the English wing and the guidance office. Tests will be administrated during the first two periods of the school day. If your child is a tenth grader, be sure all devices are charged and a good night's sleep with a good breakfast is provided.

Student Device Ticket

Students know and so should parents that if a laptop is not working or has a problem, a *Student Device Ticket* can be picked up on the counter in the main office and completed. Ms. Hickman will call the student to her office, usually the same day, and repair or replace the laptop or consult with the BCPS Help Desk to initiate further work needed. This includes power chord chargers.

COVID Quarantining and Instructional Assistance

Our school nurse, Ms. Perry, continues to follow current guidelines from the Office of Health Services which are based on recommendations from the CDC. Children at Hereford High who test positive in or out of school will need to quarantine. All students determined to be a close contact are notified and based on the student's vaccination status, are provided with the appropriate return-to-school protocol.

Instructional Assistance when COVID Quarantining

Following the nurse's initial contact with parents for COVID quarantining, your child's school counselor will be in touch to outline the procedures we have put into place for accessing classwork from the teacher while your child is at home. We will also be able to provide your student access to a content (math, science, social studies, English) teacher tutor from Hereford High School through Google Meet. All counselors have this information and will provide it to parents from whom their child must quarantine.