

Principal's Sunday Message to Parents and Students for Week of September 6 –

Good afternoon parents and students - No school tomorrow or Tuesday for students making this upcoming week a short one. Wednesday we will return, and all be on the B day.

Accessing Classwork if Your Child Must Quarantine

Unfortunately, quarantining students has become a part of opening week for Baltimore County Public Schools as with almost all other schools that opened in the state this week. School nurses identify students who test positive for COVID and then work with the school's staff to determine proximity to others. 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. Hereford is no exception to what is happening state-wide. Fortunately for us, from the beginning, Nurse Perry has stayed on top of this pandemic and follows current guidelines the Office of Health Services which are based on recommendations from the CDC. If your child tests positive or needs to quarantine, she will contact you. Following her initial contact, your child's school counselor will be in touch to outline the procedures we are implementing this week for accessing classwork while your child is at home.

Students and Mask Wearing

I need your help please. It is imperative that students wear a mask and wear it properly. 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. We have a lot of students fighting us throughout the day pulling masks down below their noses or down to their chin. 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.

Morning Drop-off and Afternoon Pick-up

We continue to tweak drop-off and pick-up procedures in the morning and the afternoon. With more than twice as many cars dropping-off and picking-up, combined with more students driving to school, approaching the parking lot can be challenging. Please know Officer Croft is working with the state department to adjust the traffic light to better suit the volume of morning and afternoon traffic. Please continue to follow the directions of those stationed outside to help assist. Car drop-off and student parking head toward the cafeteria entrance unless you have a tag to enter the upper parking lot. All other cars should avoid the front of the school as this is for bus drop-off only. We've divided the traffic into two lines as cars approach the cafeteria to help speed things up. If you are a student driving to school, you will use the left lane to drive past the drop-off. If you are a parent dropping-off, you will use the right lane. Please have your child ready to go with books in hand so the exit is fast. Also, follow my directions so I can get a large number of cars to drop-off at one time to move the line faster.

Back-to-School Night

In our effort to keep everyone safe and distanced and lower the risk of COVID infections, Hereford's Back-to-School Night will be virtual this year. Teachers have put together videos of the courses your child has with them. They will be organized by departments, and you will be able to locate them on our webpage beginning Thursday evening at 4pm. Please view the message from the principal and administrators and the PTSA president's message and then select the teachers of your students to view their presentations. You will find the teacher providing a description of the course, expectations for success, and how you can contact each. As in the past, I've asked teachers to return parent email and/or phone inquiries within one business day. If that doesn't happen or you need further assistance, please contact me or one of the assistant principals. All our email addresses can be found on Hereford High School's webpage.

Hereford High School's Webpage –

Our website provides information regarding the school's bell schedule, teacher email addresses, COVID mitigation practices, bus schedules – including bus numbers, pick-up and drop-off times, site locations which can be found on the school's webpage along with my weekly Sunday Messenger messages. Find access to all this information scanning the top maroon banner and click the appropriate heading. I invite you visit it frequently for updates. It is easy to find and accessible to all. Hereford High School's PTSA also posts all this information and my weekly messages to their PTSA Facebook page. The school's webpage address is - herefordhs.bcps.org.

Updating Parent Annual Student Information Review Forms.

Now is the time for all parents to review and and update contact information along with Privacy Preferences and Opt-Out. It is essential to complete this information as we use it to contact you if there is an emergency and we need to reach you. There are approximately 5 questions that need to be answered. Once you have made changes or if no changes are needed, be sure to click on Next to move onto the next question. At the end you will be directed to submit the form.

Sign into your FOCUS - Parent Portal. Then on the left side click on Forms. Finally, click on Annual Student Information Review Form and answer each question.

You may also find the directions in the FOCUS Schoology group titled Enrollment.

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.