

August 5, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

On behalf of the staff of Half Moon Bay High School, let me take this opportunity to welcome our new students and parents and students all those who are already part of Half Moon Bay's wonderful school community! Half Moon Bay High is an incredibly dynamic school which embraces all the students of our amazing community. Thematically, our overarching focus is on kindness. We believe that having a kind and caring student community allows every student to thrive and reach their full potential.

Last year was a huge challenge for the world, nation, state and our school. The impact of COVID-19 virus on every institution we hold dear, including our education system, is something we never could have imagined. Transitioning to remote learning during the fourth-quarter last year was a disruptive and challenging experience. Unfortunately, this year will begin with similar circumstances as well. Everything we looked at as "routine, normal, the way we do things," has changed and will be different for at least a part of the school year. However, we are much better prepared for providing diverse and effective learning/teaching formats this school year. Our teachers and paraprofessionals worked diligently to provide the best education possible under the circumstances and learned so much more about providing remote instruction as a result. With time to prepare, gather new resources, and adjust to remote learning we are confident that HMBHS will be able to meet the needs of our students and their families. Until there is a safe plan, in accordance with country and state guidelines, to host our students and staff in-person, we will engage students with our curriculum and instruction to the best of our ability. Our teachers continue to prepare various approaches to learning so that students have a rich academic experience. Many have taken professional development this summer to further enhance their understanding of how to present their subject matter more effectively in a remote learning environment.

We are very excited to offer new courses this school year which meet student interest and our desire to continue to offer a full, comprehensive, and powerful education. The new offerings that will be taught this year are a Digital Art and Design class taught in the Art Department, Positive Psychology which is part of the Social Studies offerings, and Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles which is part of the Math Department.

Students will have full access to the technology we offer and use on a daily basis. Chromebooks will be provided for any student who needs a device, and our district office has worked tirelessly to create more internet access to many areas in our community as possible.

The ability of students to collaborate, edit, and support one another through the use of "Google Suite" greatly enhances their learning opportunities. A number of our classes, especially mathematics and AVID, have "Smart Boards" or "Clear Touch" systems and we will continue to add technology as needed during the course of the year. Please recognize that while we know

we still have a way to go, we are making great progress in the area of technology that all students will have a relevant, current, online-infused education.

As a result of our work with the Health and Wellness Committee that we created five years ago, there is more support for students through social-emotional counseling. All students and their families are invited to attend and participate - first meeting, Monday, September 9th, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.. (This meeting will be conducted remotely via Zoom) We recognize that the demands and expectations of high school can be challenging for many different reasons. We have been able to have more experts, especially from our School-Linked Services, available for our students and families when they are in need of support. Finally, as an entire school community, we encourage and emphasize kindness, believing it to be a most important quality for all of us to exhibit toward each other. It is our aspiration that all people who come to Half Moon Bay High School enter our campus with that frame of mind and take it with them when they go out into the community. Approach others with the goal of projecting kindness and your experience this school year will be meaningful and fulfilling.

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Which Learning Model to Choose?: We have had many discussions about how this upcoming school year will look. With the School Board's approval, and then the mandated health guidelines as a result of the state's watchlist, **all students will begin the school year remotely**. You may have seen the presentations given by our district personnel, but a summary of the different learning plans are:

1. **Hybrid Learning Model: This is our primary learning/teaching model!** Due to current county health orders, all students will start 100% remotely (blended synchronous/asynchronous learning) and then transition to in-person instruction in phases when it can be done safely. When we are assured it is safe, students will be divided into two cohorts and attend in-person instruction at school two days a week. During the remote learning of Phase 1, students will have synchronous learning with their teachers four days a week. The teachers/courses/periods are the same as if they were on campus.
2. **Remote Learning at Secondary Level:** For our 6th-12th grade students, the design of this program model is currently being reviewed for staffing feasibility based on survey results. Secondary students may or may not have the same teacher as in the Hybrid Learning Model. Depending on staffing limitations, this option may not be available for our secondary families.
3. **Independent Study:** Students will be 100% remote and take online classes through the Edgenuity program. The Edgenuity Learning Management System has A - G courses, graduation requirements courses, and most of our Advanced Placement courses. This is

an independent, 100% on-line educational experience, however, there will be a teacher to evaluate some assessments, monitor progress, and facilitate with the interface.

Recommendation: We firmly recommend that since all students will be starting 100% remotely, all students start with Hybrid Learning Model. Students will have all their classes taught by their teachers with synchronous (live instruction) and asynchronous (independent learning). Teachers will provide collaborative learning with breakout sessions and small group projects. Students will follow the schedule given below in this letter. If and when we can safely move to the next learning phase, where students will come to campus in cohorts, then we recommend making your decision whether to stay with the in-person Hybrid Model, or switch to either the Independent Study Model, or the Remote Learning Model (currently being evaluated to determine if this is even feasible). Families at that point can evaluate what is best for them, and make the decision to continue with the Hybrid Learning Model their student is currently a part of, or moving to a 100% remote learning model.

My recommendation gives the student direct contact and learning from expert teachers, and allows all of us progress toward a normal educational environment while being attentive to the health and safety of our community.

If you feel you must start and stay with 100% remote learning for the entire year, then please register for the Independent Study Model. This is based on the Edgenuity Learning Management System, and has A - G, graduation requirements, and most of our Advanced Placement courses. This is an independent, 100% on-line educational experience, however, there will be a teacher to evaluate some assessments, monitor progress, and facilitate with the interface.

First day of school has been changed to Monday, August 17th: To better prepare for 100% remote, online learning to begin this school year, the district's opening day for students is now on Monday, August 17th.

Safety Precautions: Masks or full face coverings must be worn anytime a person is on the High School campus and proper social distancing (minimum of 6 ft) must be followed.

Grades: Students will earn letter grades in all classes (A - F) based on the quality of work and their ability to display their content knowledge. Teachers will evaluate students based on the course standards.

Attendance: Students will be expected to attend all classes, on time remotely, just like they would be expected during "regular school sessions." Teachers will take attendance. Attendance and participation is mandatory and vital to the success of a student.

All Student Registration: - Thursday August 13 and Friday, August 14 - We have changed the format for registration this year to better accommodate our families and students and adhere to safety guidelines. Our Registration days will be Aug 13th & 14th. We decided to cover all

grades at the same time, rather than having a separate day for Freshmen. Student groupings were broken up into alphabetical order so there will be a similar number of students per group and will allow us to conduct the registration the most effective and safe way as possible. Student and families will have proper spacing and it is required to wear a mask anytime you are on the High School campus:

Thursday., Aug 13th (A to K):

- 8am - 10am: Last Name A - B
- 10am - 12pm: Last Name C - D
- 1pm - 3pm: Last Name E - G
- 3pm - 5pm: Last Name H - K

Friday., Aug 14th (L to Z)

- 8am - 10am: Last Name L - M
- 10am - 12pm: Last Name N - Q
- 1pm - 3pm: Last Name R - S
- 3pm - 5pm: Last Name T - Z

Students/Parents will turn in their Registration forms, return and/or be issued their Chromebook. We plan to handle textbooks the week of Aug 17th - 21st.

New Student/Parent Orientation - We are producing a video that will be available for all students and families about our school and how to be ready to fully participate and thrive at Half Moon Bay High School. This video will be released prior to the first student day of school.

Returning Student Orientation - We are producing a video that will be available for all students and families welcoming all of our students back to school along with recommendations and advice of how to fully participate and thrive this school year. This video will be released prior to the first student day of school.

Important Partnership - We are cooperating with partners with the Boys & Girls Club of the Coastsides. They are currently working on plans to support student learning during COVID-19 crisis. They will offer safe space for some students and tutoring. Please contact the Boys & Girls club of the Coastsides for more information.

Students New to our District - Student Registration - This is currently taking place - Please make sure you have an appt with your counselor. Contact Marianne Alvarez, Registrar, alvarezm@cabrillo.k12.ca.us) to set that up.

Half Moon Bay High School Website: The High School website is full of information and insight to the school and the many programs and organizations we have. Please use this resource as a primary reference point. <https://hmbhs.cabrillo.k12.ca.us/>

Virtual Calming Space: Our counseling department attended a series of workshops this summer and have brought a really cool resource to the Cabrillo Unified School District. It is posted on the HMBHS Website under the Counseling Department drawdown. (direct link: <https://sites.google.com/cabrillo.k12.ca.us/cusd-virtual-calming-room/home?authuser=0>)

Interscholastic Athletics: The governing body of all High School Athletics has postponed all seasons until at least December. For more information about HMBHS Athletics, please visit the website: https://hmbhs.cabrillo.k12.ca.us/activities/cougar_athletics

Very Important! Please Read! The First Day of School - Monday, August 17

Cabrillo Unified School District will begin the 2020-2021 school year with Remote Learning.

HMBHS Phase 1 Schedule					
	Synchronous Instruction Days: Students at Home		Asynchronous	Synchronous Instruction Days: Students at Home	
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
8 - 8:50am	1st Period		<i>Teachers: PD/Planning</i>	1st Period	
9:00 - 9:50am	3rd Period	2nd Period		3rd Period	2nd Period
10:00 - 10:50am	5th Period	4th Period		5th Period	4th Period
11:00am - 11:50pm	7th Period	6th Period		7th Period	6th Period
11:50am - 12:20pm	Lunch Break			<i>Students: Independent (Digital Asynchronous)</i>	Lunch Break
12:30 - 3:30pm	<i>Teachers: digital check-ins with students, provide feedback on remote work, planning</i> <i>Students: Independent (Asynchronous)</i>		<i>Teachers: digital check-ins with students, provide feedback on remote work, planning</i> <i>Students: Independent (Asynchronous)</i>		

Schedule Change Requests - Students who have a mistake in their schedule, or a gap in their scheduling may request a schedule change. The student will contact their counselor electronically to **request the change from August 17th - August 24th only!**

Local Scholarship: The Local Scholarship Application will open on Monday, August 17th, 2020 and will close on Friday, October 30th, 2020. Seniors are encouraged to apply to become a recipient of a scholarship provided by local donors in the Half Moon Bay Community. 12th grade students must apply by logging into their [Naviance](#) Account. Then select “About Me” on the top right corner. Then select “My Surveys” from the drop down bar. Then select “Surveys Not Started” then select “Local Scholarship Application”. If your student is having difficulty with Naviance log in, please have them check their school emails for their Naviance login information or have them email their School Counselors.

Fall Sports Information Night – - This will be held remotely this year via Zoom. We are working on determining the time and date of this event.

Student Photo Day - This will be conducted at the School with Lifetouch. It will be a weeklong process. The dates and times are to be determined.

Back to School Night - This will be held remotely this year via Zoom. We are working on determining the time and date of this event.

First HMBHS PTO/ Foundation Meeting – Monday, August 31 - 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
Website: https://hmbhs.cabrillo.k12.ca.us/parents_community/h_m_b_h_s_p_t_o

First Health and Wellness Committee Meeting: Monday, August 31 - 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Athletic Boosters: Website: <http://www.hmbcougarboosters.org/>

Contacting the High School via phone: The current phone system at the HS is antiquated, but still functioning. It can sometimes be frustrating getting in contact with the correct person with our system. Good News! We will be getting an entirely new system during the course of this school year which, will meet the needs of our staff and families much better than our current system.

Staff Members New to Half Moon Bay High School:

Joelle Saute - Math - (Algebra II and Advanced Algebra II, Algebra Readiness) A graduate from Cal State San Luis Obispo with a degree in mathematics and a concentration in teaching, she did her student teaching at Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas Ca. through Cal State Monterey Bay. Although education is a large portion of who she is, Joelle has a love of nature,

and is an avid hiker and backpacker, which led her to pursue a minor in Environmental Studies. Welcome Joelle!

Tom Galvin- Social Studies (World History, Freshman Social Studies) Tom earned his BA in Social Studies and Theater Arts at Santa Clara University. He received his teaching credential from University of San Francisco, and earned his Masters Degree from USF in teaching. He has over 15 years of teaching experience, most recently teaching social studies at Mercy High School in San Francisco. Tom has a keen interest in the Performing Arts. He has designed and built sets, lighting designs and sound designs for theatre and dance productions. He also directed the annual 8th grade musical for nine years at a previous school. Welcome Tom!

Jesse Choi - Math (Algebra I, Algebra II) Jessie earned a B.S. in mathematics from San Francisco State University as well as his teaching degree from there. In addition to teaching math, he has tutored math at the collegiate level. Welcome Jesse!

Veteran Staff members making significant schedule changes this year:

Sara Bunkin - Sara who taught one period of Freshman Studies and was our BTSA support provider, will be taking on more teaching responsibilities! She will teach AVID, Advanced Placement Psychology, and a brand new course, Positive Psychology!

Enjoy the last few remaining days of summer. The school office is currently open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

John Nazar

Principal

Half Moon Bay High School

mail to: nazarj@cabrillo.k12.ca.us