



HAUPPAUGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HAUPPAUGE HIGH SCHOOL
500 Lincoln Boulevard
P.O. Box 6006
Hauppauge, NY 11788



CHRIS COOK
Principal

JOY FERRARA
Assistant Principal

KRISTY PAGLIARI
Assistant Principal

JOSEPH WIECKHORST
Assistant Principal

September, 2020

To All Students, Parents and Guardians of the Spring 2020 Driver Education Cohort,

After extended deliberation, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the New York State Education Department (SED) have provided schools with guidance concerning how we may conclude the Spring Semester of Driver and Traffic Safety Education (DTSE). The most significant changes are as follows:

1. **Parents/Guardians now may conduct the required 24 hours of in-car instruction with their child.**
2. **We are able to complete the remaining lecture classroom hours via distance learning.**

This letter will explain the plan we have in place to resume DTSE for our Spring Semester students. A liability waiver (on the last page of this document) must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to Mrs Surico before a student may resume DTSE in-car training. If you have any questions, please contact us using the email addresses below:

For general information about the program:

Mr. Joseph Wieckhorst, Assistant Principal: wieckhorstj@hauppauge.k12.ny.us

Mr. Charles Trupia, Instructor: trupiac@hauppauge.k12.ny.us

Mrs. Carol Surico, High School Clerical: suricoc@hauppauge.k12.ny.us

For information about refunds:

Mrs. Carolyn Biondi: biondic@hauppauge.k12.ny.us, (631)761-8344

We look forward to having you all back with us, and we are excited to resume this program and get you all on the road safely!



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Lecture Classroom Requirements:

To complete Driver Education, students must complete 24 hours of required classroom instruction, structured as 16 classes of 1.5 hours each. Prior to the shutdown, students had the opportunity to attend 5 in-person classes and 2 online classes, totaling 10.5 hours. All students must complete the remaining 9 classes (13.5 hours) and make up any classes not completed before the shutdown. These remaining classes will all be held virtually. Student schedules will closely align with what was in place before the shutdown.

All students must be part of Mr. Trupia's Google Classroom. The Classroom code is **o7eyu2s**. The Google Meet link is embedded within the classroom. Students are expected to be on time, present, and on camera during all scheduled Meets.

Beginning Tuesday, September 15, 2020, Mr. Trupia will offer classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3pm-4:30pm and 4:30pm-6:00pm (these times are later than the original class schedules to allow students to get home and ready). Students will log in according to their schedule in place in the Spring (i.e.: If a student attended lecture class on Wednesdays after they had their driving lesson, they will now log in to the 4:30pm Wednesday Lecture class). The lesson format will vary, but will include a combination of instructor-led discussion on Google Meet and independent work assigned on Classroom. All non-participants will be marked "absent" and will be required to attend an alternate time of that same lesson or complete assignments offered at the end of the program.

Assuming we are able to run classes for 9 straight weeks, we aim to be completed with the classroom portion of Driver Education by the week of November 13, 2020. The schedule and groups of students will be posted on the Google Classroom.

Please email Mr. Trupia or Mrs. Surico if you have any questions about the lecture schedule.

In-Car Driving Requirements:

The following is the guidance provided by the DMV and SED on August 26, 2020: "For the 24 hours of laboratory (in-vehicle) portion of instruction, due to the COVID-19 crisis, programs that began in Spring 2020...will now have the option of allowing students to complete the 24 hours of in-vehicle instruction under the supervision of a parent/guardian holding a valid NY State Driver's License if COVID-19-related circumstances (e.g., social distancing requirements) do not allow students to enter a vehicle with a professional driving instructor..."

"The student's school must provide the parent/guardian with specific and detailed information regarding the 24 hours of in-vehicle instruction, observation and applied practice that the parent/guardian will deliver. Upon completion of this



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instruction, the parent/guardian must document and attest to the student's school that the student has received the 24 hours of combined in-vehicle instruction, observation and applied practice."

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, private driving schools are restricted to *one* student per vehicle. As a result, Fitzgerald Driving School is unable to complete the lessons they were contracted for our Spring 2020 students. Accordingly, parents will be refunded a portion of tuition paid for this instruction. Specific information on refunds will be provided soon.

In order for our Spring 2020 students to complete the in-vehicle portion of DTSE, we have prepared an information packet and driving skills checklist. **Parents/guardians will be asked to sign the checklist affirming their student will be receiving in-car instruction with a driver holding a valid NYS Driver's License in a vehicle that is currently registered, insured, and inspected. By signing the permission slip, parents/guardians are also affirming they accept full responsibility for the health and safety of their child while conducting their driving lessons.** The slip can be found [here](#) or at the URL below. We will also keep copies with Mrs. Surico in Room 200.

URL to Permission Slip: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aFYL4zQC1zP0e_cxgyhBosXZmU-u8vQSv0aVMm9x9Yg/edit?usp=sharing

Receiving an MV-285 (Driver Education Certificate)

Grading for the Spring semester will be Pass/Fail. Upon completion of 24 hrs of classroom lecture and the "Skills Checklist" signed by a parent/guardian that will attest to the completion of required 24 hours of behind-the-wheel and observation time, students will be issued an MV-285 to certify completion of Driver Education.

Refunds

We will be processing partial refunds through our Business Office in the coming weeks. Refunds will be in the amount of \$205.56 for those who paid in full, calculated based on the amount of unused driving instruction. For those who paid reduced or partial amounts, the \$205.56 will be prorated based on the fraction of the total paid.

We will mail checks to the address we have on file once they are ready to be sent out.

If you have any questions regarding refunds, please contact our Business office or Mrs. Surico.



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DRIVER EDUCATION PERMISSION SLIP/LIABILITY WAIVER
SEPTEMBER 2020

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED) have allowed for the temporary resumption of Driver and Traffic Safety Education (DTSE). They have allowed the option for Spring 2020 semester students to complete their required 24 hours of in-car training under the direct supervision of a parent/guardian.

By signing this document I affirm that:

- The driver conducting in-car training with my child holds a valid New York State Driver's License.
- The car in which my child is receiving in-car training is currently legally registered, inspected, and fully insured.
- I assume full responsibility for the health and safety of my child while they are receiving in-car training under my supervision
- The Hauppauge Union Free School District and their employees are held harmless while my child is receiving in-car training under my supervision.

Parent Name (Please Print)

Parent Signature

Student Name (Please Print)

Date

Please bring this signed copy to Mrs. Surico in Room 200, and save a copy for your records.