



The Focus

Issue: October 9, 2020

From the Desk of the Superintendent

This WEEKLY communication is intended to streamline communications between school and home by providing one regular update on topics of general interest, reminders, etc. We hope this helps to reduce the amount of duplicate email you currently may be getting from multiple district sources.

NOTE: This is an official communication from the Hopewell Valley Regional School District. Information that is not directly related to the staff or students will not be included in this email. In addition, it is not affiliated with the email list services maintained by individual school PTOs (i.e., Dog Byte, WolfFlash) and other parent organizations.

Check-In Survey - We have completed over twenty instructional days of the 2020-21 school year and we are incredibly proud of what we have collectively accomplished. As we plan for our phased-in return to full in-person instruction, we would like to provide parents, staff, and students the opportunity to reflect on our first 20 days and plan for our phased-in return using this [survey](#).

Equity Presentation: On **October 15 @ 6:30 pm** via [Zoom webinar](#), Dr. Howard Stevenson will discuss how racial stress and racial trauma can affect every stage of life. His work focuses on how educators, community leaders, students, and parents can emotionally resolve face-to-face, racially stressful encounters that reflect racial profiling in public spaces, fuel social conflicts in neighborhoods, and undermine our emotional well-being.

Election Day Reminder: Governor Murphy has mandated that all New Jersey Schools will be closed to in-person instruction on **November 3, Election Day**. This day will be a remote learning day for all HVRSD students.

Substitute Teachers Needed: Are you looking for part-time work that fits your child's schedule? Do you have at least 60 college credits? Apply to be a substitute teacher! No teaching experience necessary; training is provided. Flexible hours, per-diem pay, positive working environment. Contact: maryloukennedy@hvrdsd.org or call 609-737-4000 x2401.

FLASH DONUT SALE

Add to your joy and support STRIVE PTO by purchasing KRISPY KREME DONUTS! We are selling Chocolate Iced, Lemon, Raspberry or Kreme filled and coffee in addition to their classic Glazed!

The deadline for orders is THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15th, so DO NOT WAIT!!!

<https://forms.gle/jBjN1RY9CdyG9DMv8>

Reminder: There will be a regular meeting of the Board of Education on Monday, October 12, at 7:30 pm, The link in on the HVRSD website.

* Inside this Issue *

[Central High](#)

[Timberlane MiddleBookmark](#)

[Bear Tavern Elementary](#)

[Hopewell Elementary](#)

[Stony Brook Elementary](#)

[Toll Gate Grammar](#)

[Community Events & Activities](#)

HOPEWELL VALLEY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Community Service Commitment: HVCHS is so appreciative of the support of our community, and we want to do our part to give back! This year, HVCHS has committed to making a connection with a different local non-profit organization each month and providing support in whatever way best meets the needs of the organization. During October, we are conducting a Halloween Costume Drive for Homefront. Gently used or new Halloween costumes for children will be collected in the main foyer from October 12 - 20; please consider donating!

PSAT: HVCHS will be administering the PSAT to all sophomores and juniors on Wednesday, October 14. Only sophomores and juniors will attend school in-person from 7:45 a.m. until 12 p.m. on that day. A special virtual schedule for all other students will be sent this weekend. On the day of the PSAT, sophomores and juniors should come prepared with a College Board approved calculator, two sharpened pencils, and a snack.

AP Registration: Online Advanced Placement Exam registration began on Thursday, October 1, and will end on Friday, October 30, 2020, for students currently enrolled in AP courses. In order to register, students should click on the link provided on the school [website](#) or visit www.TotalRegistration.net/AP/311165. If you have any questions regarding your registration, please contact Molly Lytle or Nicole Getman in the counseling office.

MCTS Information Night: The Counseling Department is hosting Mercer County Technical Schools Information Night on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7pm via Zoom. This event is for Sophomores, Juniors, and their Parents/Guardians. Mercer County Technical Schools offer half day, Career Technical Education Programs and full-time programs to any Mercer County resident and coordinates with the student's school day schedule. We are thrilled to have Mr. Michael Orfe from Mercer County Technical Schools host the event and provide insight to the many offerings and opportunities that are available to our students. Mrs. Laurie Rotondo, Supervisor K-12 Counseling Services will moderate the event. Please visit www.mcts.edu for more information. The zoom link will be emailed to students and families next week.

HVCHS Returns: Please take a few moments to review our return to school website, [HVCHS Returns](#), which contains important information about our new protocols and procedures. It also includes the [October schedules and Cohort calendars](#).

What's Happening at HVCHS? Please follow us on Twitter: @HVCentralHS and Instagram: [hopewell_valley_central_hs](#) for pictures, updates, and fun facts!

* Dates to Remember *

October 12 - 20 -- Halloween Costume Drive for Homefront

October 14 -- PSAT (Grades 10&11)

October 14 -- Mercer County Technical School Info Night, 7 p.m.

October 21 -- Back to School Night (Virtual, 7 p.m.)

October 31 --AP Registration deadline

TIMBERLANE MIDDLE SCHOOL

SEL Day-On **October 14**, we will have an SEL day. Our students will NOT be physically reporting to Timberlane. Rather each student will join their homeroom from 9:00 - 10:30am for an SEL lesson and activities. We will work on the CASEL competencies as our students work towards achieving our [River Friendly Certification](#). The rest of the day will be dedicated to self-care. **All sport practices will be canceled this day.**

Yearbook / School Pictures- [Lifetouch](#) will be taking school photos for our yearbook [Order Form](#). **October 13** - all **Blue Cohort Students** during the school day. **October 16** - all **Gold Cohort Students** during the school day. **October 14** - all remote students can come to TMS for photos. **THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR REMOTE STUDENTS ONLY.** Photo Time Slots are between 11:00 and 3:00. If interested, please sign up [here](#).

Material Pick up For Remote Learners- October 14 - When you come for your student's yearbook photo, you can pick up materials for remote learners.

Back to School Night-This year, Back to School Night will be virtual on **Tuesday, October 20**. The evening will start with a Principal's Update, via zoom (link coming soon) at 7:00 pm. A website of teachers presentations will then be made available. Videos will be available through Friday, October 23 at 5:00 pm.

TMS Updates - For additional information about TMS, please visit our [webpage](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#) @Timberlane_HV, or Instagram @timberlane_timberwolves

* Dates to Remember *

October 13- Blue Cohort school pictures

October 14- Remote cohort School pictures

October 14-Special SEL Schedule

October 16- Gold Cohort School pictures

October 20- Back to School Night (Virtual 7:00 pm)

BEAR TAVERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BT Changes In Students' Dismissal - Families, if there is a change in how students will be going home (pick up, take the bus, after school program, etc.), please be sure to call or email the main office, as teachers do not always have an opportunity to check their email. 609-737-4005

joannemarkulec@hvrsd.org and laurenjordan@hvrsd.org

Pomptonian Food Service - Lunch for after school is still being provided. Pre-order for students to take home. If ordering online, be sure your application is submitted and confirmed to ensure proper service. Click [here](#) for more information. This is an optional program, please disregard if you are not interested.

BT Back To School Night - Many thanks to our parents for joining us on Thursday night. We are grateful for your support, partnership, and collaboration. We look forward to working together in the upcoming year.

BT Membership Toolkit - All volunteer opportunities, Spirit Wear, and your class lists can be found on MembershipToolkit. Click [here](#) to register. Please email beartaverndirectory@gmail.com with any questions.

BT Health Lessons - Our Health lesson cycle begins. There will be 8 lessons, taught virtually by our district's Elementary Health teacher, Mr. Zegarski. To simplify the scheduling, Health will take place on the SAME DAY as PE, but at a different time. Click [here](#) for the Health times. Lesson times and links will be pushed out through OnCourse the same way that special area lessons are, so you and your child will receive a reminder each week.

Amazon Smile - You shop, Amazon gives! It's an easy way to support BT year-round. Check out our Bear Tavern Elementary School Smile account when making purchases. A percentage of what you spend comes back to school.

The Textile Drive - Ever wonder what the collection bin is for in the school parking lot? It is for the district's year-round textile drive! Support your school, your community, and your environment. The Textile Drive is a HUGE fundraiser for the BT PTO. Please drop off bagged textiles (clothing, shoes, handbags, hats, blankets, linens, towels, stuffed animals, etc.). Stained and ripped items are OK for donation.

What Did Your Child Do In School This Week? - Find out! To see pictures of all the great happenings at BT, please be sure to follow the Bear Tavern Twitter feed @BearTavernES ([here](#)) and #BearTavernPride ([here](#)). Our teachers update this feed daily. It is a great way to see all the wonderful things your students do all day. For important flyers and forms, check out the BT Virtual Backpack ([here](#)).

* Dates to Remember *

10/12 - 1A Day

10/13 - 1B Day

10/14 - 2A Day

10/15 - 2B Day

10/16 - 3A Day

HOPEWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Back to School Night - Thank you to our parents and guardians who joined us on Tuesday for this year's Back to School Night. You are our partners in education, and we appreciate your support.

Special thanks to our teachers for hosting informative and engaging presentations.

Special Classes - A friendly reminder that attending special classes is an expectation for all students.

I Dissent - Last week, our entire Hopewell Elementary School community read I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark. Last Friday, the [author joined us via Zoom to finish reading the book](#). A heartfelt thanks to New York Times Bestselling Author, Debby Levy for an experience we will never forget! #NotoriousRBG

Pomptonian Food Service - Lunches for after school is still being provided to all interested families. Pre-order for students to take home. If ordering online, be sure your application is submitted and confirmed to ensure proper service. Click [here](#) for more information.

* Dates to Remember *

10/12 - Bulldogs

10/13 - Frogs

10/14 - Bulldogs

10/15 - Frogs

10/16 - Bulldogs

STONY BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Back to School Night - Thank you to parents and guardians for joining us on Back to School Night! We were thrilled to see such a great virtual turnout. Special thank you to our SB teachers for their time and energy in delivering engaging presentations.

Bookfair - YOU STILL HAVE UNTIL SUNDAY. Please checkout the Virtual Bookfair and order some books. Thank you.

Next PTO Meeting - October 14 at 7:30 pm. Via Zoom. Link will be sent out soon.

Election Day Reminder: Governor Murphy has mandated that all New Jersey Schools will be closed to in-person instruction on **November 3, Election Day**. This day will be a remote learning day for all HVRSD students.

Membership Toolkit- If you haven't done so yet, please be sure to visit Membership Toolkit to create a new account or update your information from last year. You can purchase school-branded apparel and merchandise, make a donation to the PTO, and sign up for volunteer opportunities through the site. Please visit the following site to sign up or update your account: <https://stonybrookelementarypto.membershiptoolkit.com>

Cookbook. The Stony Brook PTO is excited to announce that we are organizing our first cookbook! The PTO is partnering with Cookbook Publishers to create a personalized cookbook that showcases the rich diversity of our Stony Brook community over the course of the 2020-2021 school year. To submit a recipe please [click here complete this Google Form or copy and paste this address into your browser:](#) <https://forms.gle/gopjorqM4Z4RaHDx6> Entering a recipe will only take about 10 minutes!

Pomptonian Food Service - Lunches for after school is still being provided to all interested families. Pre-order for students to take home. If ordering online, be sure your application is submitted and confirmed to ensure proper service. Click [here](#) for more information.

Absences & Late Arrivals - Parents should call our TeleSafe number 609-737-4006, Ext 2, by 8:00 am, to report an absence or late arrival. Thank you.

* Dates to Remember *

October 11 - LAST DAY FOR VIRTUAL BOOKFAIR

November 3 - Remote Learning Day for all student.

TOLL GATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Thank you - To all our parents and guardians who joined us virtually for “Back To School Night” Wednesday evening. We hope you gained helpful insight regarding your child’s educational experience here at Toll Gate. The feedback we received was very positive and our teachers and staff appreciate all your support.

Virtual Book Fair - Our virtual Book Fair organized by our PTO begins next Tuesday, October 20 and will run through Monday, November 30. Click [here](#) for the link to order **on or after Oct.20**. Remember the Holidays will be here before we know it so place orders for gift giving now and support the PTO fundraising efforts.

TG October 2020 Month of Challenges - This month, each student and staff member will be challenged to complete a specific challenge each day. Staff will have reflective dialogue with students about these challenges. The challenges are related to each theme week and highlight the importance of respecting others and yourself, making connections and identifying social supports, making positive lifestyle choices, and having coping strategies.

The theme weeks are as follows:

“Week of Respect” - October 5-9

“School Violence Awareness “ - October 19 - 23

“Red Ribbon Week” - October 26 - 30

School Violence Awareness Week - October 19 - 23

The purpose of “School Violence Awareness Week” is for students to reflect on how conflicts can lead to violence, to identify strategies to prevent violence from occurring, and to learn how to resolve our conflicts peacefully.

Halloween 2020 -Since everything is different this year, and Pennington Borough, Hopewell Borough and Hopewell Township will be supporting Trick or Treating on Saturday evening, our plan will be:

- students may wear their costumes on either Thursday, October 29 if they are a Gator, and on Friday, October 30 if they are a Bulldog.
- Students who attend 5 days may wear costumes on Friday.
- Individual classes may have Halloween themed activities planned. If so teachers will communicate directly with parents but parents will not be permitted in the building.
- Unfortunately there will be no parade.

Pomptonian Food Service - Lunches for after school are still being provided to all interested families. Pre-order for students to take home. If ordering online, be sure your application is submitted and confirmed to ensure proper service. Click [here](#) for more information.

TGG School Store - All things Toll Gate are available in our School Store. Please click [here](#) to place your order.

* Dates to Remember *

Oct. 29 & 30 - Wear Halloween Costumes to school

Nov. 3 - Remote Only-Election Day

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Get your tickets now for the Amazing Pumpkin Carve Drive-Thru! The Amazing Pumpkin Carve is back for its sixth year -- from the comfort and safety of your car! Dozens of colossal pumpkins will be carved and electrified by many of the area's most talented artists and displayed in a beautifully illuminated drive-thru from Wednesday, October 7 through Sunday, October 11 at Woolsey Park in Hopewell Township. Entry: \$25 per car. For all the details about the Amazing Pumpkin Carve, please visit www.hvartscouncil.org/amazingpumpkincarve

Movies in the Park

Hocus Pocus: Come and join us at Woosley Park on Saturday, October 17 as Hopewell Recreation presents a perennial Halloween favorite "Hocus Pocus"!! BEWARE, the Sanderson sisters have come back to life and the kids of Salem are in harm's way!! The witches need young children to exist and they only have one night to sate their hunger pangs, or come the morning, turn to dust!! It's great "kid friendly", PG rated, entertainment that is full of silly "witchy" antics, flying brooms, hysterical spells and a talking cat!! Don't miss out!! Advance reservations required! See the movie [flyer](#) for more details and information.

Insidious: Come and join us at Woolsey Park on Saturday, October 24 as we celebrate Halloween with a good ole' fashion scary movie!! Hopewell Recreation presents "Insidious", a PG-13 rated movie that stars Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne. It is a gripping story of a family in the search of help for their comatose son who is in the grips of a creepy and evil demon. What are you to do when it's not your house that is haunted, but your own child?! One of the best horror movies of its time... a shock-a-minute fright fest that will definitely put you in the Halloween spirit!! Advance reservations required! No one under the age of 18 permitted without an adult. See the movie [flyer](#) for more details and information.

This WEEKLY email is intended to streamline communications between school and home by providing one regular update on topics of general interest, reminders, etc. We hope this helps reduce the amount of duplicate email you currently may be getting from multiple district sources.

NOTE: This is an official email of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District. Information that is not directly related to the staff or students will not be included in this email. In addition, it is not affiliated with the email list services maintained by individual school PTOs (i.e., Dog Byte, WolfFlash) and other parent organizations.