

# Hughes Springs ISD

## Parent Information Regarding the 2020-2021 School Year

June 29, 2020

I know many parents and students are anxious for news regarding the start of school.

Below is some information that *may* address some of your questions and concerns.

While I know there are many questions & concerns, please understand that currently we are not able to provide solid answers.

We are still awaiting numerous pieces of guidance from the State & Texas Education Agency. Until we have that information and have time to process what it means for HSISD, we will not be able to provide solid answers.

Unfortunately, the information below is all we have to offer currently. However, we are working diligently so we will be able to give you more information as soon as possible.

I would like to thank the community for all the support they have shown us as we have navigated these uncharted waters. It has been an adventure to say the least!

– Sarah Dildine, Superintendent

### Changes

Over the past several months, we have had to redesign and reimagine what every day school will look like.

**We must realize that school will most likely never return to the way it was or as some people like to say “normal”.**

All our HSISD parents, students and staff members are going to have to be flexible, calm and have patience with each other.

Teamwork is going to be the #1 ingredient in our future success. Flexibility is going to be #2!

### School Calendar

Our 2020-2021 school calendar is posted on our website and on our social media accounts. It was also emailed out to all parents, whom we have an email address for in Skyward, on June 9, 2020.

Our first day of school is August 13, 2020.

You will also note that there are “COVID-19” Make Up Days marked on the calendar. These days will be used to make up time in the event we have a closure.

## **Parent Survey**

In the next couple of weeks, we will be releasing a survey that we need all HSISD parents to complete. We will post the survey on our social media accounts. We will also email it to all parents, whom we have an email address for in Skyward. This survey will take you less than 5 minutes to complete and will give us some important information we need to plan for the 2020-2021 school year. There will be a quick turn around time on the survey.

## **School Supply Lists**

Supply lists will be posted by July 4, 2020, for grades PK-8th. We do not post supply lists for high school, as every student's schedule is different. The teachers will let the students know what they need on the first day of instruction.

## **Back to School Health Guidelines for Students, Teachers & Visitors**

While many of you may have seen the "draft" Texas Education Agency guidelines that were leaked to the media, please keep in mind nothing **official** has been issued.

There have also been various "guidelines" posted on social media that claim to be from the CDC or other authorities, many of these are fake guidelines.

**HSISD will not release our guidelines regarding masks and other back to school health protocols until the first week in August.**

## **Online Registration**

We plan to open Online Registration in Skyward Family Access on July 30, 2020 for the annual completion of required paperwork for all students enrolled in HSISD. We will post reminders on how to complete Online Registration before that time.

## **UIL Activities**

We are still waiting for information from the UIL regarding what guidelines will be in place for fall sports, band, etc. Once we have that information and what it means for HSISD, we will communicate it to the public.

## **Academic Challenges**

Many of our students will face academic challenges during the 2020-2021 school year, due to missing 1/3 of the 2019-2020 school year. It will be a challenging year and your child will need your support more than ever. Your child's teacher will need your support more than ever.

I have total confidence in our staff to meet and conquer these challenges.

## Back to School Events

We plan to host some events, like Meet the Teacher, but these events will look different than they have in the past. More information will be posted at a later date.

## Virtual / Remote Instruction

Last week, the Texas Education Agency issued Virtual/Remote Instructional Guidelines for districts to follow, if they choose to offer virtual/remote learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

It is not a requirement for districts to offer virtual/remote instruction; it is a choice.

As you can imagine, the guidelines are extensive.

I am not able to tell you what that means for HSISD. I am currently meeting with other area superintendents & school leaders. We are putting our collective knowledge & resources together to make plans for our districts.

**What I can tell you is that the virtual/remote instruction requirements for 2020-2021 will in no way, shape or form resemble the remote instruction that schools provided in the spring. The requirements are far more complex and extensive – for the schools, for the students, and for the parents.**

I anticipate we will release more information regarding this topic in the coming weeks. It will also be addressed in the parent survey we will be releasing.

## Preparing Your Student to Return to School

Parents can help us prepare for coming back to school by teaching your children proper hand washing techniques and the importance of washing their hands frequently.

While this is important for all students, it is especially important for younger students.

Our nurses will be making a video tutorial that you can use with your child. We will post that on social media when it is ready.

You also need to talk to your child about covering their mouth when sneezing or coughing, preferably by coughing or sneezing into their elbow.

You will also need to talk to them about social distancing and respecting the personal space of other people.

While I know this may seem silly, these three practices are vital parts of keeping our school & community well; not just from COVID-19, but also from the flu and other viruses.

**If we can stay well in our community, we should be able to stay in school and have some sense of normalcy for our children.**

All our time & collective energy is being devoted to back to school planning. At this time, we do not have the manpower to monitor social media for questions. Therefore, we will not answer additional questions regarding the start of school via social media. If you have a specific question, please call, or email your child's campus principal. The principals are on hand Monday – Thursday from 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. We are closed July 2, 2020.