

August 26, 2020

Dear Parents,

Things have certainly changed a lot since last August when we celebrated our “A” rating for the district. This is a school year like none other and our students, teachers, and parents have done a wonderful job of adapting to all the changes.

However, one thing has not changed and that is our dedication to providing students with the very best education possible, thereby giving them the opportunity to excel in whatever they choose to do in life.

At the beginning of the school year parents were given the opportunity to choose for their child to attend school traditionally each day or participate in distance learning. Since that time, many students who chose to attend school traditionally have had to quarantine for weeks at a time, thereby becoming temporary distance learners. The reality of this school year is that any student could become a distance learner at any given time.

Consequently, it is imperative that all students are prepared to distance learn at any time and that teachers are prepared to provide services for the ever changing number of both traditional and distance learners.

Therefore, beginning in September, we will implement a new district wide schedule. This schedule, which is posted on our district website, will include several days each month in which all students will be distance learners. In preparation for this new schedule, teachers will begin training students on how to learn from home and how to communicate with their teachers in times of distance learning.

It is very important that both parents and students understand that attendance will still be recorded each day and that students with excessive absences will still be reported to the truancy officer.

Grades will continue to be assigned following normal district grading policies as listed in the student handbook and all grades will continue to reflect performance on academic standards.

How can parents help?

Please know that during times of distance learning our highly trained teachers will continue to provide instruction for our students. We do not expect parents to become the teacher. However, we do need parents to be vigilant in ensuring that each child participates daily in distance learning activities and submits required assignments. Students who do not have internet access will be provided with learning opportunities that do not require access to the internet. Our teachers have become quite resourceful in finding ways to share information with students and families.

We are certain that the same dedication, innovation, and determination that made us an “A” district last year will now ensure that our students excel during these unprecedented times.

Please know that in the next few days each school will be providing more detailed instructions regarding distance learning expectations.

Thank you for your continued support of Hancock County School District. We appreciate the opportunity to help your child learn and grow each day.