

August 20, 2020

Dear Upper School Families,

I hope that this note finds you healthy and enjoying moments of fulfillment with friends and family during these last few weeks of summer. It is hard to believe that in a few short weeks we will be welcoming your son back to campus in what will be a school year unlike any other in Haverford's history. The intention of this letter is to build on the [previous communication](#) sent on August 4th, provide you with updates on our [reopening plan](#) and share the necessary information so that your son is best positioned to hit the ground running in September. In normal years this letter typically highlights several modest changes being made to the Upper School program. The modifications that we have made this year are certainly more significant. While these changes may result in some level of personal inconvenience or discomfort, they are necessary in order to protect what is the essence and foundation of our school: the students, families, faculty and staff of the Haverford community.

I am also reminded as we look ahead to the beginning of the school year that our reopening efforts must not leave out the critical work to support all students with a firm and shared commitment to honor inclusion and equity. Our boys are in their most optimal state to learn when they feel seen, heard, valued and protected. A commitment to health and safety also means continuing to work together to reject prejudice and intolerance and create a space that recognizes and values our common humanity. One ingredient to this work is humility - the acknowledgement that we do not know everything and that we need to listen to others' lived experiences. This listening becomes a foundation for personal reflection, the impetus for education and ultimately informs our actions. I hope that you will partner with me and the rest of the Upper School Faculty in helping to teach our boys how to effectively listen to each other, appreciate, respect and embrace differences, navigate conflict with grace, remain flexible in their thinking, practice healthy civic engagement and see the benefit and strength of working together as a community.

One of the principles inscribed on the walk of virtues is teamwork, a value that is always important, but one whose significance is amplified as we head into a year that is sure to be filled with challenge and change. As many of us know and as our boys have found through experiences on the field, classroom and stage, the foundation of effective teams is a deep shared responsibility that individuals possess for one another. This shared commitment guides actions and words as team members recognize the individual sacrifice required in order to ensure the success of the group.

Two of the primary measures of success as we head into next year are the extent to which we are able to maintain the health and wellness of community members while also sustaining conditions that allow for the preservation of in-person learning. These two objectives are very much interrelated. There is a direct correlation between the health of individual community members and our ability to keep our campus open. The extent to which we are able to consistently adhere to established health and safety guidelines - most notably wearing a mask at all times, maintaining proper physical distancing, completing daily symptom surveillance and remaining home if sick - will have a significant impact on our ability to sustain valuable in-person learning.

A commitment to community health also means limiting if not eliminating risky behaviors that could increase the chances of exposure to the novel coronavirus both during school as well as

outside the confines of the school day. We are blessed with an incredible faculty & staff who are committed to come to campus if they are able to work with the boys. We have a responsibility to keep them safe just as we have an obligation to keep our boys and families safe. All of us - students, families, faculty and staff - are responsible to one another and have a role to play to sustain community health. It is cliché, but we are truly all in this together.

While the preparation for the beginning of the school year has been different in relation to previous years, the objective remains the same: to provide students and families with the requisite resources to ensure a smooth transition to the new academic year. Also working throughout the summer to prepare for the upcoming school year has been our amazing faculty who have been reading up on the latest developments in their fields, fine tuning courses to optimize student learning and engaging in a variety of professional development workshops on student centered instructional design and equitable & inclusive community building practices.

The Upper School office team comprised of myself, Megan Dieckhaus and newly appointed Upper School Dean of Students Luqman Kolade have been hard at work building the requisite infrastructure for the upcoming year. Please read below for several program specific reminders and updates that merit special attention. You may also click [here](#) for a centralized location on our website that contains upper school specific back to school information and resources. Please review this material and be in touch if you have any questions.

Student Class Schedules

Individual student class schedules will be available by 5pm today in MyBackPack by clicking on the "Schedule" tab. Please see the [August 4th letter](#) for an explanation of the new quarter block schedule that we will employ this year. As I indicated in my previous letter the necessary health and safety measures to sustain community health placed scheduling restrictions that limited the number of students we could place in each class. As such, the ability to make modifications to your son's current academic program is significantly limited, if possible at all. As a reminder, The Haverford School does not accept requests for specific teachers. You will also find your son's advisor listed in the "Student" tab. For Fourth Form students every effort was made to place you with an individual on your preferred list. In some cases this was not possible based on the number of students in existing groups and physical distancing guidelines that placed restrictions on advisory sizes.

Health Services

The Haverford School uses Magnus Health for all health information collection and management. It offers continuous access to your son's health record as well as the ability to make updates when needed. You can access the Magnus Health site [here](#). Your login credentials for Magnus Health are the same as MyBackpack. Many parents prefer to use the [Magnus Mobile Personal Health Record App](#) (Magnus Mobile v2) to submit all health information via their mobile device.

The Haverford School health requirements for the 2020-2021 school year were due on August 1st, 2020 to allow for participation in all school activities. All health information is to be updated annually, including physical assessments and all health plans, which are available for print from your account for completion by your medical provider. All requirements are to be submitted electronically annually via your Magnus Health account including parental permissions, consents, and vital health record information.

Return to Campus – COVID-19 Daily Symptom Screening

In preparation for return to school we will use the COVID-19 daily symptom screening tool via the Magnus Mobile v2 APP. Please follow the instructions below to use the COVID-19 daily symptom screening tool via the Magnus Mobile v2 App. You may also access an instruction sheet [here](#) and video tutorial [here](#). This should be completed prior to your son coming on campus.

- Download the **Magnus Mobile v2App** available for any smart device
- Login using your **MyBackpack** credentials
- Tap the **COVID-19** icon
- Click the Covid 19 Symptom assessment link and complete by 7:30 a.m.
- Follow directives for school entry ("**Pass**" sign - Green) or exclusion ("**Fail**" sign - Red)

Access to campus is contingent upon completion of daily symptom screening and structures will be put in place to ensure compliance. Please click [here](#) to refer to our "Wellness at Haverford" and "When to Stay Home" guidelines when considering on campus school attendance and return to school after illness or COVID-19 exposure.

Our Health Services Department staff is available to address any questions related to your son's health care at school and may be reached directly at 484-417-2714.

New Procedures & Policies

There are several new policies and procedures in place this year to ensure health and safety and preserve in-person learning. While the boys will be oriented to these modifications at the beginning of the year I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few and enlist your support in reinforcing these essential rules with your son.

- Masks must be worn at all times while on campus. The only exceptions are when students are eating lunch in their designated advisory location or drinking (a water bottle with a straw is encouraged to minimize full removal of the mask).
- The Upper School building will open at 8am. Students will proceed to their first period class when they enter the building. If able, students should time their arrival to minimize unstructured time in the building.
- Students should leave the building after their last scheduled class unless they have an established meeting with a faculty or staff member. If a student does not have a scheduled first period class they are permitted to delay their arrival on campus until the beginning of their second period class. In a similar fashion, students may leave campus for the day if they do not have a scheduled class last period. Students are expected to communicate their arrival and departure plans with their parents or guardians and must adhere to established sign-in and sign-out policies.
- Students will be expected to keep their personal belongings with them at all times. Lockers will not be available in order to ensure enough space in hallways to ensure physical distancing. Bags, school supplies, or other personal items may not be left unattended, so please minimize the amount of personal belongings brought to school.

- Students will not be allowed to share school supplies or personal items/materials with others.

Food Options

Students may purchase a grab and go breakfast item in the morning outside of the dining hall. Eating independent of the lunch period should take place outside of the building or in a to be determined designated location and not in individual classrooms or community spaces in the building. More information about our dining options are available online. If your son chooses to bring his lunch, it must be free from peanuts and tree nuts.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

A separate communication is forthcoming with an update on the athletics program and the Fall athletic season. This note will also include information on any modifications being made to the Upper School activity requirement for the coming year. A reminder that we made the decision to prioritize academic time for physical interactions, and will support extracurricular activities in a virtual space for the 2020-21 school year. This decision includes programming such as clubs and student organizations.

Dress Code

While there are modifications in place temporarily for the upcoming year, the School's dress code speaks to the principle that what students and faculty do at Haverford is important. A coat and tie are NOT required this year but students are still expected to be neat and well-groomed. With the exception of a coat and tie all other expectations of the existing dress code policy apply (full button down dress shirt, slacks/shorts with a belt and dress shoes).

Hybrid Learning

A reminder that we will be offering a hybrid model as an option for students who need to remain home due to illness/quarantine and for families who wish to keep their sons in the virtual classroom to begin the school year. Our classrooms have been outfitted with cameras, allowing classroom activities to be livestreamed to the boys at home. If you have not already done so please reach out to me directly if you are considering this option for your son. An additional communication will be sent prior to the start of the school year outlining logistics and expectations for students engaging with our hybrid learning model.

School Supplies

As in years' past, the School will provide many, but not all, of the student's books. Textbooks, both online and hardcopy, will be purchased by the School and provided to the boys by their teachers, with the expectation that the books will be returned in reasonable shape at the end of the course.

There are other books, primarily paperbacks and workbooks, which need to be purchased by families. A complete list of the books and supplies that families are responsible for purchasing is available [here](#). Please note the addition of a digital drawing pen tablet and functioning personal headphones (the recommended device is a headset with a noise cancelling microphone).

Please begin the process of securing all necessary supplies as soon as possible – some books or supplies may take some time to arrive.

Summer Reading

This is a final reminder that there is an expectation to complete summer work in many courses. You can find this work broken down by form [here](#).

Parent Orientation Programming

We will run an orientation program for parents prior to the start of school to provide additional detail on this year's Upper School program. Third Form families are invited to attend on Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00pm. Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form families are invited to attend on Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:00pm. An email will be sent prior to each session with additional details on the program and will include a link to access the meeting. In the meantime please bookmark these dates and times on your calendar.

Student Orientation Programming: Tuesday, September 8th

There will be in-person orientation programming for all Third Form students and newly admitted upper form students on Tuesday, September 8th from 9am - 11:45am. No school supplies are needed for this program. Student's should dress in attire consistent with this year's dress code. Third Form families can access a schedule for this program [here](#) or in the upper school back to school section of the website. Newly admitted upper form students will receive an email from their advisor with additional information on this program. All established health and safety protocols including maintaining six feet physical distancing and wearing a mask at all times will need to be followed for this program. Finally, the daily symptom screening will need to be completed prior to the student's arrival on campus.

Upper Form students are invited to a virtual orientation program on Tuesday, Sept 8th at 2:00 pm. This program will provide an explanation of the new policies and procedures in place so that students have the requisite information to help navigate the opening day of school. An email will be sent prior to the session with the meeting link.

Opening Day: Wednesday, September 9th

Click [here](#) to view the modified schedule for the first day of school on Wednesday, Sept 9. The day will run from 8:45 am - 2:45 pm with 60 minute classes and extended opportunities to meet as an advisory group for opening day activities and orientation to new policies and procedures.

Despite the reality that school will look and feel different next year the thought of seeing the boys in person in the Upper School building in a few short weeks is so exciting and fills me with such joy and energy. Some programming during the upcoming year will have to be reimaged or will not be possible as a result of the most important commitment to keep our community healthy. I genuinely wish these changes were not necessary and share in the deep disappointment that some signature programming will need to be modified. Having been at Haverford for close to twenty years and directly involved in the planning of many of these events that mark milestones in a student's Haverford journey, the loss of these moments and rites of passage has considerable impact particularly for our Sixth Form students and families. I am certainly sensitive to this but am also optimistic that we will both preserve existing traditions and

create new moments of meaning during the upcoming year and that the relationships that have always been the heart of the Haverford experience will continue to be a source of nourishment as we all navigate these challenging times together. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts as we work together to support the boys.

Sincerely,

Mark Fifer

Acting Head of Upper School