



October 1, 2020

Dear Hillside Families,

The T/E School District is currently planning a transitioned re-opening for students beginning on Monday, October 12. For families who have selected a return to school, the week of October 12 will include Monday and Thursday transition days for Kindergarten students. On Tuesday and Friday of that week, K-4 students whose families are returning to school for the integrated model will transition to Hillside according to alphabetically assigned bands. The full schedule for the October 12 elementary transition week is here:

- Monday, Oct. 12 (Last Names A-K): Kindergarten & Special Education (4-day students in learning centers)
- Tuesday, Oct. 13 (Last Names A-K): All Grades
- Wednesday, Oct. 14: All Students Virtual
- Thursday, Oct. 15 (Last Names L-Z): Kindergarten & Special Education (4-day students in learning centers)
- Friday, Oct. 16 (Last Names L-Z): All Grades
- 5-day Special Education students will continue with their individualized schedules each day.
  
- Begin with alpha-band plan for K-4 in week of 10/19.

To allow for final preparations prior to a hybrid re-opening, the T/E School District has designated **Wednesday, October 7 as an Inservice Day with no school for students.**

Included with this letter are the following documents we ask you to review carefully:

- *The TESD Elementary Logistics Guide: Integrated/Hybrid Model for Families* to provide some details of Hillside's hybrid plan. This will be posted on the Hillside website for easy access and updating. Changes are likely to occur to this plan as we monitor and adjust to an unprecedented model of teaching and learning with ensuing new routines.
- *The Elementary In-Person Learning Checklist for Parents and Students* to highlight some key items and tasks necessary prior to returning to school.

So that students are familiar with some of the changes that they will encounter upon return to Hillside, members of our wonderful staff have assisted me in filming a video to give a visual overview of some of the changes at our school. At the root of all changes are social distancing, good

hygienic practices, face coverings, and limited exposure to large groups. That video will be shared next week.

I cannot stress enough the importance of completing the **daily symptom screening prior to 8:30AM** each day so we can run the report before students begin arriving. This screening is vital to the health and safety of our school community. It is a required component of your decision to attend school in-person. Parents/guardians will complete a form in the [PowerSchool](#) Parent Portal prior to students getting on the bus or entering the building, affirming that students are symptom-free. Parents/guardians will receive an email reminder from TESD each day. The more cooperation we have in this process, the smoother carline drop-off and classroom entry will be for everyone!

Due to the number of students being dropped-off and picked-up from school, we ask parents to expect and be mindful that it will take more time than usual to welcome and to dismiss students. The car line will be slow, especially at first. Please prepare to wait and do not pull out to pass cars in front of you. Please keep a single file line and only exit students on the curb side of the car. Staff members will be there to assist students in getting to the correct entrance.

*Students who are new to Hillside this year* will be invited to attend an optional half-hour school tour with our school counselor, Ms. Scott, on Monday, October 12 (last names A-K) and Thursday, October 15 (last names L-Z). Parents/guardians will be invited to drop-off students after completing the symptom screening form and pick them up thirty minutes later. More information will be emailed to our new families next week.

Thank you all for your flexibility and understanding during these virtual months. We look forward to continuing the virtual program and to welcoming some of our students back to Hillside *with masks on and hands clean!*

I can't wait for the day we can all be back at our beautiful school together!

With Hillside Pride,

Michele Staves

Principal