

December 4, 2020

Dear Bromfield Community:

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break. This week's newsletter contains information about a variety of things.

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Quarantining and School Work - An Adjustment

As the year has progressed, a number of students have needed to quarantine. When a student needs to quarantine, they should immediately plan to attend their afternoon and Wednesday remote classes. They can also use teacher office hours for extra help. The teachers' Google Classrooms will also provide valuable information about the class. Students will be coded as Q in PowerSchool and will not incur any penalties for being absent.

Parents should contact our school nurse, Colleen Nigzus, about the need to quarantine. Mrs. Nigzus will contact your child's counselor who will let your child know which classes have remote access for the morning classes.

Working with our faculty, we have been able to increase the number of classes in the morning where remote access is possible. These classes will occur on Blue Days (Mondays and Thursdays). While the number of classes where streaming is possible is not 100%, it has been increased. If a morning class does not have remote access, students should still attend office hours and their afternoon and Wednesday remote classes. Please realize that it will take at least

24 hours to let students know the possibilities so they should start by going to afternoon and Wednesday remote classes until they hear from their counselors.

Please remember that this increased access to morning classes is only for students who are required to quarantine.

Immunization Policy

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has updated the Massachusetts School Immunization Requirements to include a documented seasonal dose of the Influenza Vaccine administered no later than 12/31/20. The documentation must be turned in to the school nurse by email (cnigzus@psharvard.org) or paper copy. (cnigzus@psharvard.org). This requirement will remain in effect until rescinded by the Governor. Here is the link to the School Policy: Policy JLCB [Immunization of Students](#).

Family Travel and College Visits and Returning Family Members

Clearly, travel is a complicated issue during Covid 19. Please remember to adhere to the Harvard School Committee Travel Policies: COVID-19 Travel Policy (10-15-20) if you need to travel either for family reasons or a college visit. If you travel to a state that is on the more restricted list, your students must either quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative Covid test that was taken 4 days after returning to Massachusetts. This policy is more stringent than the state policy. In addition, families should fill out the appropriate Family Travel Forms: [Family Trip Form](#) or College Visit Form: [College Visit Form](#). These measures will provide greater safety for our students and staff.

Monitoring Student Health

Please remember to monitor your child's health each day and do not send your child to school if they exhibit the following symptoms: Fever (100° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills, cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough) difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, headache when in combination with other symptoms, muscle aches or body aches , nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms . Our staff is asked to use the same checklist. If your child is going to be out sick, please be sure to use the absent email button on our web page and include the reason for absence. Please remember that students who are not feeling well on a particular day cannot call into school and say they are going to stream into classes as this is not a possibility. Please refer to the School Committee Policies and Flow Chart:

[HPS policy for responding to suspected or known Covid 19 cases](#)

[HPS Policy for responding to suspected or known COVID cases - Flowchart.](#)

Continuing Hybrid Plan

We have decided to remain in the current hybrid/remote model of school until at least January 4th. The Harvard School Committee will make a decision about the model beyond January 4th at its next meeting on December 14th. This plan would only change if we have two cases of COVID-19 in the district at the same time and then we will become fully remote for at least 14 days. So far, we have had 1 case of COVID-19 in the schools. This success is a tribute to careful safety measures and your community commitment. As you know, many communities around us have had to pivot to fully remote. We consider each day that the school buildings are open for students a blessing. While we are ready to transition to remote when necessary, we prefer to offer families the option for Hybrid.

As a reminder, if we were to become fully remote, we would finish the schedule for the week using the blue/green cohort. After that week, we would convert to our full remote schedule which is detailed here: [Full Remote Schedule](#).

Next Opportunity to Switch from Remote to Hybrid

The next time for a remote student to switch to hybrid is Monday, January 4th. If your child plans to make this adjustment, please alert administration and your child's counselor by Friday, December 18th. We need to know prior to vacation so any adjustments to student schedules can be completed prior to their return on January 4th. In the event that we continue with the current hybrid model, the Harvard School Committee decided that students would have the opportunity to switch from Remote to Hybrid on February 1, March 1, and April 12. Please see the updated policy: [School Committee Learning Model Policy](#)

As a reminder, while students are able to switch from Hybrid to Remote at any time, the switch will usually require a schedule adjustment and it may take a day or two for counselors to make the switches and inform teachers.

Maintaining Physical and Social Distance

We ask that our students remember to maintain physical and social distance outside of schools. This will be especially important in the upcoming weeks. If you watch the news, you will see that social gatherings without masks have caused a number of school districts to close school buildings and move to remote learning for a period of time. We are aware that so much is changed and that we all yearn to return to normal. Please adhere to the state guidelines so everyone can be safe and we can continue to have in-person learning that occurs with our current hybrid model.

Attendance

Please remember that students should avoid appointments that conflict with classes if at all possible. Remote classes that occur on cohort days and Wednesdays are especially important

since they are still classes that meet directly with their teachers. Please remember that days where your child's cohort does not meet directly with the teachers are school days. Students should plan their day accordingly and make sure they do the asynchronous work required.

Clothing for Cold Temperatures and Rainy Weather

In order to keep students in fresh air as much as possible, windows will continue to be open during the school day. We may also conduct classes outside if the weather permits. In addition, we will continue to have students take mask breaks outside. We will use the tents if the weather is inclement. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately to be outside in a colder or wet environment. Rain and cold weather gear are essential for students to be comfortable during these outside mask breaks. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

SEPAC News

Please join the Harvard Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)!

The Harvard SEPAC strives to create an inclusive community of students, parents, educators and district employees that fosters support and respect for children with special needs. We partner with the school committee and district leaders to plan, develop and evaluate special education programs and we support families by creating a network that provides education, connection and communication. Our main priorities are strengthening our community through inclusion, and promoting an open, positive, collaborative relationship between special education district employees and parents.

We welcome new families and hope you will consider joining! Please see the link below for more information.

Contact us at harvardsepac@gmail.com to be put on the email list and learn more about our offerings.

Jenny Gillard, co-chair
Aspen Ference, co-chair

[What is Harvard SEPAC?](#)

Bromfield Drama Society News

Greetings adventurers! Come one, come all to see SHE KILLS MONSTERS: VIRTUAL REALMS proudly presented by The Bromfield Drama Society. This epic comedy by Qui Nguyen, and presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, takes you into the hearts and minds of geeks and cheerleaders as they brawl in a heated game of Dungeons and Dragons! The prize? The soul of their fallen comrade Tilly.

Join 18 of our middle schoolers and high schoolers on this journey of laughter, tears, and epic macarena battles. Please join us December 4th and 5th at 7:00pm and on December 6th at 2:00pm for viewings of SHE KILLS MONSTERS! Tickets are \$10 and available online via ShowTix4U. Link is available on the Unified Arts department website or Facebook, or the main page of the TBS website: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/43036>

Great News from the Music Department!

Congratulations to the following student-musicians who have been accepted to the 2021 Senior High Central Mass. Music Festival: John Babcock, Albert Chen, CC Juliano, Asha Khurana, Chloe Kranz, Nishkal Pisal, Siena Stanten, and Thaman Surya.

Additionally, Thaman, Siena, Chloe, Nishkal, and CC qualified for Mass. All-State Audition Recommendations. These folks are part of the largest showing of All-State recommendations in the department's most recent history!

We wish all of our students our congratulations and best wishes as they take part in the virtual festival in January

Bromfield Cares and Project 351

Please use this link to access the latest from these groups: [Bromfield Cares](#)

Bromfield Apparel Inventory

While supplies last we are happy to offer our extra Bromfield Apparel Inventory of hoodies and beanies at reduced prices. **Sizes and quantities are extremely limited** so place your order now to support the PTO while you show your Bromfield spirit. [Start shopping here](#) or for questions please email info@harvardPTO.org.

Family Digital Support Update

Web Filtering - With our continued goal of providing a safe technology environment for our students, we have been researching and exploring web-filtering solutions that will work while students are both at school and away from school. We are happy to announce that the Harvard Public Schools has teamed up with [Family Zone](#) in order to provide filtering off school grounds. Please read the full letter [here](#) for our Directory of Technology, Chris Boyle.

Digital Citizenship Reminders - Students are using digital tools in lots of new and exciting ways! We want to make sure everyone remembers to be respectful and responsible while using digital tools. Now is a great time to review two resources we use in the classroom:

- [Zoom Expectations](#) for TBS
- [THINK](#) Before you Post

Please continue to use the [HPS Family Help Desk Ticket system](#). The IT staff is responding to tickets as fast as they can. You can also [Book with Beth](#) for an in-person or virtual consultation.

Please remember that [HPS Digital Learning Resources](#) is another great resource for families.

As always, please contact us if you have questions. Have a great weekend.

All our best,

Scott Hoffman, Principal

Robin Benoit, Associate Principal