August 19, 2020

Dear Members of the Henry Viscardi School Community,

The HVS administration would like to thank everyone who participated in our virtual town hall meetings. The feedback we received from parents and staff is critically important, as it drives our decisions about reopening. We truly thank you all, and, together, I am confident we will have a safe and successful reopening of school!

After careful consideration, we will be implementing hybrid reopening Model A to start the 2020-2021 school year. All students can attend in-person on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday, students will engage in remote learning and virtual synchronous instruction. This model will enable us to acclimate our students to the educational environment and address any potential issues that arise prior to phasing in additional in-person school days. Please also understand this is subject to change based on the current pandemic conditions, as well as the success of implementation.

School is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 8th, which is a remote learning day for all students. The first day of in-person learning will be on Wednesday, September 9th. We will, again, contact all families to determine if your child will attend school in-person or remotely.

HVS will be contacting your local school districts to inform them of our reopening plan for September. We also encourage you to contact them with your intent to return to in-person instruction for transportation to be arranged.

As a reminder, students and school staff must follow health screening and temperature check protocols prior to coming to school. Refer to our reopening plan for the specific details. Parents/guardians, please ensure if your child becomes ill at school, he/she will be able to be picked up immediately by you or an emergency contact.

Supporting student social and emotional well-being is a priority, regardless of where students will be receiving instruction. SEL at HVS will continue to be a focus to support all students, staff, and families by: Providing Staff, Students, and Families with Social and Emotional Support; Continuing to Address Referrals to Identify Students in Need of Mental Health, Behavior, and/or Emotional Support; Providing Professional Development; Consulting with Students, Staff, and Families in Need; Continuing Implementation of Embedding an SEL Curriculum and Supports within the School Day.

This school year will look very different from any other school year. Therefore, we ask that you assist in preparing your child by reinforcing such concepts as: staff members wearing masks, polycarbonate barriers on students’ desks, and the importance of maintaining social distance from peers.

We will continue to communicate information as we get closer to September 8th. Thank you for your time and continued partnership. Please continue to submit your questions or suggestions to the reopening committee at reopeningcommittee@viscardicenter.org.

Sincerely,

Angelo Zegarelli
Head of School