Parents and Students :

This week we continue to make Hereford High ready for students who have opted to return to school assigned to A cohort (Monday and Tuesday) or B cohort (Thursday and Friday) with Wednesday remaining an asynchronous day for all students remaining home to allow a deep cleaning of the building.  Signage has arrived and has been posted, some halls and stairwells have been designated and labeled for one direction travel, cafeteria tables have been removed and student desks have been set up and appropriately spaced for our three lunch shifts, classrooms are in the process of being redesigned to accommodate safe, spaced limited seating, and appropriate disinfectant materials has been placed in all classrooms for student and teacher use. I’m told information for bus transportation including bus stop schedules will arrive shortly and when it does, I’ll get it to you.  Thanks to all who contributed to our drive and dropped off disinfecting wipes or had them shipped to us from Amazon and other venders.  We were overwhelmed with deliveries last week and have enough now to have placed an ample supply in classrooms to get us started. Your generosity is truly appreciated. Hopefully, our orders from BCPS will begin to arrive soon. Please, if you haven’t contributed yet, we can still use the wipes.

Here are a few items of importance to note for the first week of March -

**Schedule for the Week**

Since this is a full week of school, Wednesday is asynchronous.  Virtual classroom instruction for student learning this week is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

**Graduation Information**

Ms. Place, Hereford’s liaison to activities connected to graduation, informed students via Schoology this week that Hereford’s graduation date for seniors is finalized and will be Saturday, May 22.  Time and location are still to be determined. There are committees working with BCPS leadership to determine where and how graduation will take place.  In addition, as you can imagine, not only Hereford High, but all county high schools are seeking direction on what can and can’t be done to celebrate our seniors. I met with senior class advisors who will be meeting with senior class officers this week to start discussions on what we can do to celebrate seniors. Rest assured, all school principals including me are asking for decisions on what graduation and all the events connected to it can be so plans can be made. I will keep you posted.

**Cohort Information Mailed Home for Reopening**

The cohort your child has been assigned based on the survey you completed with your child’s start back to school date (A/B – return to Hereford High School for hybrid instruction or C – remain home to continue virtual instruction) was mailed home last Monday. You should be clear as to which cohort your child is in with the back-to-school date if seeking hybrid instruction.  If not, call the school or email assistant principal, Mr. Covert at rcovert@bcps.org.

**Verification Information Mailed Home**

Counselors have been meeting individually with students since November and have worked with them to select courses for next school year based on student and parent interest, teacher recommendation, and required grade level and high school graduation requirements.  Verification of the courses selected for your child for school year 21-22 were mailed home last Monday complete with directions outlining the criteria as to which courses may be changed and how this can be done. Even if not making changes, you still need to respond. **The deadline date for making course changes is this Friday, March 12, close of school day.**  If you miss the deadline date, changes you request cannot be guaranteed. If you did not receive the course verification or need more information, call the school or email assistant principal, Ms. Book at ebook@bcps.org.

**Next PTSA Meeting**

In talking with Hereford’s PTSA President, Mr. Savas Karas, and the PTSA executive board, the next PTSA meeting will be Thursday, March 18. The meeting will include a discussion on re-entry back to school, senior graduation and associated events, the school schedule, steps that have been done to make the building safe for reopening, upcoming calendar dates to get us to the end of the school year, and answers to any questions parents may have.  Look for more information in my principal’s Messenger message next Sunday, but the date of the PTSA meeting will be Thursday, May 18.

**Marking Period 3 Interims**

Wednesday, March 3rd marked the midpoint, or interim date, for the third marking period. Interims for Marking Period 3 will not be available in the Focus portal. Instead, the following systemwide message was shared with students and families on March 3rd reminding them to check their child’s grades on Schoology.  In case you missed it, this was it:

Wednesday, March 3rd marked the midpoint, or interim date, for the third marking period. Students and families are reminded to check student progress and current levels of performance by logging in to Schoology. If any student or parent has any questions or concerns, please contact your child’s teacher or school principal for assistance.

Remember parents, teachers at Hereford are a message away. You can request contact from any one of your child’s teachers using Schoology or using their email address. I’ve asked all teachers to contact parents for any of their students who show a marked decline in achievement (decrease of two or more letter grades or a failing grade) from the prior marking period. You can request a Parent/teacher conference at any time but especially if your child is in danger of failing or has dropping more than one letter grade from the previous marking period. Please follow your child’s grades in Schoology.  If you need my assistance, please reach out to me at ljira@bcps.org.

**Calendar for Return to BCPS Schools for Hereford High Students**

3/15 - Special Needs students return.  Please note, BCPS does not use the wording Special Education students. Parents will be contacted if their child is included as defined by BCPS.

3/22 – grade 9 students return.

4/6 - grade 10, 11, 12 students return.