



**HIGHLAND PARK  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Students, Parents, & Guardians:

We have nearly completed all of the preparations for our remote only start for the school year. On August 27<sup>th</sup>, we welcome our incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to Highland Park High School virtually at 2PM via my [Zoom room](#). Our Incoming Freshmen Orientation video can be viewed anytime now at [https://youtu.be/ K0dVc2Vjmo](https://youtu.be/K0dVc2Vjmo) and the [Google Slides](#) presentation can also be reviewed more closely by clicking on the link provided. We will post both of these on our high school website. Please be sure to watch the video and review the slides if needed so that you can ask questions of Mr. Richardson and me. We want to be sure our newest OWLS in the Class of 2024 are ready for this school year!

I appreciate the efforts our students in grades 10 – 12 have made to return textbooks, library books, and English course novels. If you have not done so already, please come by the high school back cafeteria entrance between the hours of 11AM – 1PM on Monday, August 31, 2020 to return your books. Please be sure to wear a mask and social distance from other students if needed when you arrive. If you do not return your textbooks from last year, you will not be able to receive new textbooks when we start to distribute them to all grades 9 – 12 from September 14<sup>th</sup> through September 25<sup>th</sup>. We will provide a grade level and subject specific schedule for this distribution after I meet with our teachers next week. Please plan on coming to the school on the designated day to pick up your textbooks because it will be very difficult to reschedule your pickup day. We will be adhering to strict social distancing and health protocols during this process.

Please be sure to review your printed course schedule, the detailed class schedule, and the schedule for the first day of remote learning on September 8<sup>th</sup> included in the mailing. We are aware that Genesis displayed lunch and some of our original times for classes when you viewed your schedule in the Parent and Student Portals. We have had to rebuild the entire schedule a few times in Genesis this summer and are still working out some of the glitches that remain. If there are any concerns remaining, please reach out to your school counselor. We will start our first day of remote learning with a welcome video followed by homeroom to go over some of the specifics for attendance and how our virtual school will run. We also need for you to review the important forms that should be completed and insurance information for your Chromebooks. Remember that if you have any problems with your school issued Chrome book or your Internet at home, please email [hstechsupport@hpschools.net](mailto:hstechsupport@hpschools.net) for assistance as soon as possible and we will make arrangements for repair if needed. You can also call the main office of the high school and we will get back to you as soon as possible to assist. We will provide a list of faculty and staff Zoom addresses by September 4<sup>th</sup> so that you know exactly how to access your teacher's virtual classrooms.

I recognize fully that remote learning will present challenges and our faculty and staff are all committed to providing the best learning experience possible given our situation. Last school year, many of our students struggled in remote learning, but all of our students, who fully committed to attending in person video lessons, completing Google Classroom assignments, and maintaining contact with their teachers and counselors, were successful. We had 112 of our students take Advanced Placement exams for the first time remotely and I am proud to say that 83% of the 277 exams they completed were scored at a 3 or higher. 32% of their exams were scored a 5, which is the top score. We should be very proud of not only the hard work of these students but their teachers as well!

Highland Park High School remains one of the best high schools in New Jersey. We will endeavor to instill our students with Openness, Wisdom, Leadership, and Spirit we want them to have as OWLS. Please help us by maintaining the Hope and Perseverance that you should have as a member of the Highland Park community.

I am always available if you have any questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me.