

This & That

Week of September 14, 2020

Hello everyone! I hope you have had a nice 4 day week. I feel like although it was 4 days, I was SOOOO much busier than normal. I don't know how that happened! Maybe it is the cooler weather we have had the past few evenings. I tend to get cabin fever and only want to be outside when the weather is nice. Here are the updates for the week.

- 1.) Flat Mrs. Burtis – By now, all of my students should have received some mail from me. In the mail was the flat Mrs. Burtis character. I asked the students to show me around so we can have fun together while we are apart. If you would be willing to take a picture/pictures of a few of the adventures we had and send them to me, I would appreciate it. I am hoping to do a bulletin board of all my adventures for when we return to the classroom.
- 2.) Grandparent's Day pictures – If you have not done so already, please send the PTSO a picture of your child and their grandparents. They need them no later than today so they have time to put the video together. They will be posting this on the PTSO Facebook page and sending me a link that I can get out to you.
highlandlakesPTSO@gmail.com
- 3.) “Late” in canvas – I have had several questions about assignments that are showing up as late in canvas. The district has put in dates for the day that the assignment is given. These are for assigning purposes only, the “late” note has absolutely no effect on their grade.
- 4.) Returning to Campus – The board approved the return to classroom dates, so 1st grade will phase in on September 29th. The classroom and campus will look very different than it did when our littles left in the spring. I can speak personally, it will take a lot of adjustment to get used to this new norm.
 - a. I am attaching a supply list that will reflect what will be needed for a successful start. This year there will be no community supplies, as the student will not be allowed to share anything. It will be necessary that they have their own pencil box that contains their personal items for class (pencils, white board markers, crayons, etc...). Please make sure that everything fits easily into the pencil box, because overfilled ones are going to be very difficult to manage. If you are unable to provide these materials, please reach out to me so I can help.

- 5.) No Zoom meetings September 23-25 – to prepare for the return to campus I will be returning to school Wednesday, September 23 - Friday, September 25 to get our room ready and to attend various school meetings to understand the new expectations we will have. This means that there will be no zoom meetings or small groups those days. ALL learning will be done on Canvas for those 3 days. There will be several reminders between now and then, but I wanted to make sure you had time to prepare accordingly.
- 6.) Face Masks – As you know when we return students will be required to wear face masks throughout the entire school day. The only exceptions will be lunch and recess. It may be a good idea to have your child start practicing wearing their mask now so it won't be so hard once they return.
- 7.) DVOA Students – If your child is currently enrolled in DVOA and intend to remain online you will be getting information about what schooling will look like for your child. If you intend to return to campus on September 29th it is my understanding that you will need to re-register your child as a HLS student so they will remain in my class.

When I started this email a few days ago, I was thinking there wasn't much to include this week. Then the board meetings happened and all of a sudden I am not sure where to start with all of the new information. What I included is only the tip of the iceberg, but I felt that they were the most important to us at this time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. If I have the answers to your questions I will get it to you or I will find someone who can help. If we work together and be patient with each other, we will overcome this next mountain we are about to face. Hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Burtis