



HMES Newsletter

August 26, 2021

A Message from Dr. Tufts:

Hello Families,

We have had a great beginning to our new school year. Our students are settling in and are embracing their new routines. Thank you for adjusting to our new drop off and pick up procedures. Our new procedures are much safer for students who ride their bikes or walk.

During these mild weather days, we are having the students eat the meals outside. So far, students have been embracing this change.

We will be scheduling weekly COVID-19 tests for staff and students. We will be using a saliva test, which will provide results within 24 hours. To have your child tested, you will be required to sign a waiver. The results information will be shared with the Howell Mountain school district and CDPH. I believe weekly testing of students is an effective strategy in identifying possible cases. Cohorts exposed to the virus will remain closed for 10 days. In this event, we will have quarantined students resume to distance learning. Our main goal is keeping our students healthy and keeping our campus open. I will be attaching the waiver to this communication and will be sending it home in your child's green folder as well.

Thank you for considering this offer to test your children.

Daily Health Checker

An additional screening measure is the daily student health checker. It is the family's responsibility to assess for any COVID-19 symptoms. Students are to remain at home for 10 days or provide proof of a negative test should they have any of the following symptoms:

- Cough/shortness of breath
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Chills
- Runny nose
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell.

Back to School Night

We will be hosting a Back-to-School Night next Thursday evening from 6:00-7:00 pm. We will be meeting in person, so masks are required. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 guidelines, students will not be able to attend this year. One session will run from 6:00-6:30. The second session will run from 6:30-7:00. A Zoom option will also be available for either session. Teachers will be reaching out to their families to supply this link.

Important Dates

September 2: Back-to-School Night

September 6: Labor Day, no school

September 10: Hearing Tests for all grade levels

