

HHA Herald – Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Hi, this is Principal Hornbeck with your weekly HHA Herald. Our school is committed to academic excellence and to building our community. Key components of our community-building work include restorative practices and circles, the Leaders Go Places program, the Open Doors LGBT+ middle school club, and our Diversity and Equity Committee or DEC. The work of the DEC complements and overlaps with restorative practices. For the last few years, the DEC has worked with the faculty in many ways to reflect on and undo racism in our school and community. All staff participates in ongoing training around racial injustice. I have asked staff to be proactive in having age and grade-level-appropriate conversations with students about race and racial injustice. Hampstead Hill Academy staff believes Black Lives Matter, and we believe in doing our part to end structural racism. If you have questions about this important work, please reach out to your child's teachers or to me at principalthornbeck@hha47.org.

In other news, HHA is presently scheduled to begin in-person instruction for PreK and K students starting Monday, November 16, 2020. The first group each day, often referred to as the AM group will run from 8-10:30 and the second group or the PM group will be in session each day from noon until 2:30. Classrooms and restrooms will be cleaned between groups, HEPA filters have been installed in each classroom, masks will be required, and handwashing and social distancing will be part of our safety protocols. HHA families with students in Prekindergarten and Kindergarten will receive a link from their child's teacher by the end of the day this coming Monday to an online information and decision form with many more details. This form will be due at the end of next week. All five PreK and K teachers have volunteered to work in-person. As you know, having your child participate in-person is completely up to you. We expect between 70-80% of students will work in-person with the rest connecting to the live classes by Zoom.

Meanwhile, if your family participates in Halloween, wear a funny or scary mask to be safe and have a great time. I think the weather promises to clear up, and one last plea to vote. Your voice matters so much. School will be closed on Tuesday, which is Election Day. I voted by absentee ballot and dropped mine in the ballot box at the Museum of Art a few weeks ago. You can go vote early in-person every day between now and Monday at the Southeast Anchor Library at 3601 Eastern Avenue between 7 am and 8 pm or go old school and actually vote on Election Day. That's it for now. We'll talk again next week. Have a good evening.