



Holyoke High School

Dean Campus

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August 28, 2020

Hello Holyoke High School North Campus Families and Students,

We are about to begin the 20-21 school year. The start of this year will be quite different from the start of any other school year. We know that students have not had a traditional school experience since March 13th and this has been hard on students, on families, and on teachers. As we have been planning for this untraditional year, we want students to be able to experience all the traditional aspects of our school that we value. We want our students to build meaningful relationships with their teachers, their peers, and the other staff members in our school. We want our students to engage in lessons that have them reading, writing, and problem solving. We want our students to be critical thinking in every class, every day. We want our students to work collaboratively, in meaningful ways, with their peers. **Finally, and most importantly, we want our students to know that we care about them, we are here for them, and we will support them as they get used to learning in this new way.**

Facebook Live on Monday, August 31st with Mrs. McKenna, Mr. Gates and Dr. Mahoney. We will be sharing information and answering questions on re-opening this coming Monday. 5:00 to 5:45 will be in English and 5:45-6:30 will be in Spanish. Please join us at <https://www.facebook.com/holyokehighknights>.

Chromebook/Schedule Pick Up: Each student will be receiving a chromebook from HPS. If you have one from the spring that is not working, you can exchange it for a new one. You must bring the old Chromebook and the charger. Our pick up will be on the Holyoke High School North Campus. The schedule is below. Families will need to fill out the Chromebook Loan Agreement Form ([Spanish](#) and [English](#)). Students without a parent present must fill out the form themselves. If you can print, read, and sign the Chromebook Loan Agreement form (Click Spanish and English Link above) in advance, it will allow for things to move along smoothly on the day of pick up.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Tuesday	Wednesday
9.1.20	9.2.20	9.3.20	9.4.20	9.8.20	9.9.20
9th Grade (11am-2pm)	10th Grade (11am-2pm)	11th Grade (11am-2pm)	12th Grade (11am-2pm)	Additional day for all grades	Additional day for all grades

Daily Schedule: In order to maintain healthy screen times, students will meet with half their classes each day (an A Day/B Day schedule). Students will start their day at 8:45 with a check-in with their homeroom teacher and they will have four classes, each one being 50 minutes long. Class sessions will run from 9:00-1:00 with 10 minutes between each class. These classes will be live and students are expected to attend them every day. Each teacher will have a Google Classroom that will have all the lessons for students and classes will meet in virtual Zoom rooms. After lunch on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, students will complete work independently. They can work with teachers during this time by visiting their Zoom rooms. Each teacher will also offer an office hour each week. Students in Cohort C will follow this same schedule live in the building.

A Day	Time	B Day
Homeroom with Squad	8:45-8:55	Homeroom with Squad
A Block	9:00-9:50	E Block
B Block	10:00-10:50	F Block
C Block	11:00-11:50	G Block
D Block	12:00-12:50	H Block - All students in Squad
Lunch	1:00-1:30	Lunch
Conferencing with teachers/ Independent work time	1:30-3:00	Conferencing with teachers/ Independent work time

Squad: For the 20-21 school year, we have created a new course. The HHS Squad Program promotes meaningful relationships between staff and students while providing academic and pro-social support during a pandemic. Students will receive 1.25 credits upon successful completion of the course

Attendance: Student attendance will be taken in each class by the teacher and will impact course credit and/or course grade. We are waiting on a revised HPS policy.

Grades: Unlike the spring, students will receive letter grades for all courses using our traditional grading system. Grades will determine honor roll and will be used in the calculation of GPAs.

AP Courses: We know this is an incredibly challenging time and we commend students who select AP Courses for their courage, determination, and commitment in enrolling in an AP Course for the 2020-2021 school year. The transition to remote learning has presented unique issues and has demanded a lot of flexibility on the part of our AP students. The AP teachers want to make sure you are prepared for the AP Exam in the spring semester. In addition to your regular block of 50 minutes every other day, we are requiring an additional 45 minutes from 8:00 to 8:45 on the subject designated day. The tasks that are done during this time may vary from week to week. Teachers will be designing these sessions to best support the needs of the students in these courses.

This year will certainly be different from what we are used to. That being said, we are committed to making this year an awesome year for our students. The whole team at HHS North has been working together to prepare for our students and to welcome them on September 14th to the 20-21 school year. We can't wait to be working with them again.

Sincerely,

Lori McKenna
Associate Principal, North Campus

Stephen R. Mahoney, EdD
Executive Principal, HHS