



Dear Hancock Families,

My hope is that you are healthy and enjoying this summer break. I am excited to begin school on August 5th. I pray we will be back in classrooms soon, where we can interact in person with each of your wonderful children. On July 29th, you will receive an email notifying you of your student's teacher for the 20-21 school year. We are working tirelessly to create a thriving learning environment in these uncertain times.

I want to provide you updates related to this new school year.

- There will be no KIST testing for incoming kindergartners this year. Kindergartners will be placed in classrooms and teachers will evaluate students' academic skills and abilities. Instruction will be differentiated to meet the needs of each student and teachers will provide the necessary enrichment to support all learners.
- The initial learning platform for students will be done online using **Google Classroom** as the main platform. This will look very different than it was delivered at the end of the previous school year. Each child will be assigned to a classroom teacher. When it is safe to return to Hancock, they will return to school with that same teacher and group of students. Teachers will be teaching from their classrooms at Hancock, using our Hancock/District curriculum. Your student's day will include some live instruction from their teacher and some pre-recorded lessons. You can expect there to be daily interactions with your child's teacher and their classmates. During live instruction, the teacher and students will have opportunities for conversations and discussions. Attendance will be taken daily and students will submit assignments and complete activities during their school day. Teachers will grade and record assignments, administer assessments and provide feedback on completed work. Each classroom will be monitored regularly by administration to make sure all teachers have the support they need to be effective in this learning platform. Instruction will be differentiated within the classroom to ensure student needs are met.
- One of the topics our leadership team discussed in length is the **accelerated program** Hancock offers. We want to make sure we can deliver this important program given the guidelines we must follow from the state and school district when students return to school. One of our biggest challenges is students need to stay with their cohort group during the day (they will not be able to move from class to class for leveled instruction). If students change classrooms, a student who may test positive would have the ability to expose a larger segment of the population. As a group, we discussed in length the options to make this work with the challenges we currently face. Everyone in the room recognized the importance of Hancock's accelerated program and felt strongly that we need to continue the program during virtual learning to ensure individual needs are being met. Our discussions were guided by what we believe is best for students in this unique and challenging time we are all living in. After lengthy discussion, we made the decision to meet the needs of our advanced students by differentiating within the child's homeroom class. Advanced students will be clustered in each grade level room. These students will be challenged at the level they are performing at. We believe this can occur by differentiating within the classroom in the virtual setting, as well as when we return to our physical classrooms here at Hancock. It is important to note this is only a temporary solution. Our teachers are committed to making this work to meet

each child's needs but it will look different than it did in the past. We are committed to make sure that we are taking all precautions to keep every child and employee at Hancock safe.

I know this is a **challenging time** for everyone. We are doing everything we can to ensure the **safety** of each child as well as provide the best instructional and learning opportunities for every student. I thank you in advance for understanding that we must make some adjustments in the way we do things to ensure that our priority in keeping everyone safe is in place. My interactions with many of you in the Hancock community have been so **positive** and I really appreciate all of your support and understanding. Please feel free contact me anytime if you have questions or just need to talk about choices. I look forward to an amazing year with you all!

We will continue to provide updates and information to you as we receive it. We will be **transparent** in our challenges and we know that if we **work together** as a staff and community, we can provide the best opportunities for our students in this challenging time.

With Sincerity,

Dr. Joe Walters
Hancock Elementary Principal
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