

Dear Hopkins Public Schools Families and Community,

This letter is to serve the purpose of informing our local community of plans for the next school year, 2021-2022. Please know that Hopkins Public Schools is continually evaluating the needs of our students and families. We value your feedback and look forward to more opportunities to serve our students, families and community. We ask that you read the following letter carefully, as it contains very important information regarding the instructional options for your child(ren).

Our district understands and respects that there are many factors taken into consideration when families make decisions around their choice of instruction for their children. The decisions that HPS makes regarding masks, quarantines and other topics around school safety are heavily influenced by requirements and recommendations from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Allegan County Health Department. Having said that, below is a brief outline of what we are planning regarding in-person instruction next school year.

- All buildings within the Hopkins Public school system will be in session 5 days/week for in-person instruction beginning next fall, unless otherwise required by agencies with jurisdiction in such matters.
- Masks will be optional in schools beginning fall 2021 if they are no longer required by law. However, there may be times when masks are required for a period of time, such as when an outbreak occurs.
- Quarantines may still exist; to what extent will be determined by the ACHD. The district has no jurisdiction in determining quarantines, it simply provides close contact information to the health department.

You may be aware that Allegan Area Educational Service Agency announced that they will not be offering the Virtual Academy of Allegan County (VAAC) as a service to families and school districts next year. We are grateful to AAESA for providing VAAC as a collaborative countywide service that allowed our families to participate virtually in school during the COVID-19 pandemic, while still retaining enrollment at Hopkins Public Schools. Hopkins Public Schools would also like to extend a thank you to all families that participated in the VAAC this year. We recognize that this has been a difficult year, full of unforeseen challenges, but has also been an opportunity to grow through and with something very unique and special.

Additionally, our Hopkins Remote program (offered only to 6th-12th grade students) will not be continuing next fall. We are grateful for our staff providing this opportunity for our students this year. Due to the size of our district, Hopkins Public Schools may not have the capacity to host our own virtual instruction platform next fall. However, there may be potential opportunities for our district to partner with other local school systems. We are currently exploring this possibility.

Hopkins Public Schools is excited to be moving forward with planning for next school year, 2021-2022. With that, if you are a parent of a VAAC or Hopkins Remote student, we ask that you complete this

[survey](#), to indicate the intentions you have for your child(ren). Please complete this survey **for each child that is currently enrolled in VAAC/Hopkins Remote** by **May 21**. (**Additionally, if your child attended in-person in 2020-2021 and you would like to transition your child to virtual instruction, please also complete the [survey](#). **)

- If your child attended VAAC/Hopkins Remote and your decision as parents is to have your child return to in-person instruction, please indicate this on the form, and your child's principal, the transportation department and other relevant departments will be made aware of this transition.
- If your child attended VAAC/Hopkins Remote and your decision as parents is to continue with a virtual learning option, please indicate this on the form; if you have questions about virtual options, please contact your child's principal.
- ***If your child attended in-person instruction and your decision as parents is to transition to virtual learning, please indicate that on the form.***
- If you are currently undecided, please indicate this on the survey, and please also provide us with relevant information or feedback that may help us make decisions about further virtual opportunities.

The results from this survey are critical in supplying the district leadership with necessary information that allow us to prepare appropriately for next year. We thank you for your time and resilience this past year -- your commitment as families to your children is what makes Hopkins such a special community.

District Leadership Team
Hopkins Public Schools