

# 2021-2022 Back to School

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“We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.” —*To Educate the Human Potential*

# Agenda

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Welcome and Acknowledgments

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Where have we been, where are we now?

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Health and Safety

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COVID-19 weekly screening

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Arrival

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Dismissal

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Lunch/Snack

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Ongoing Communication

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Q & A

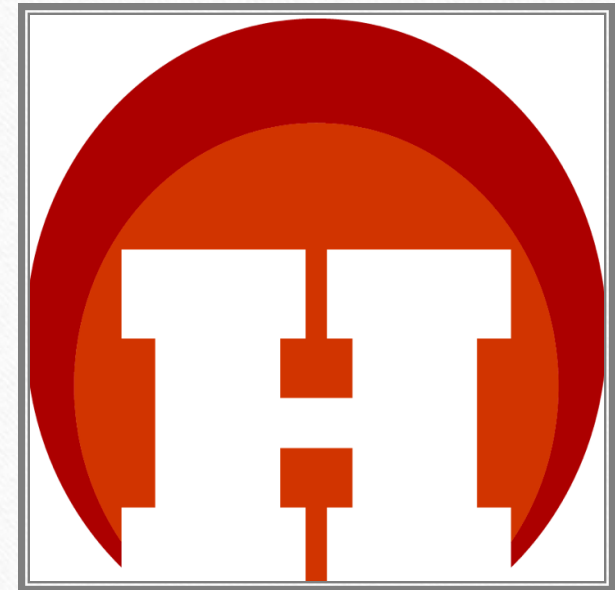
## Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge everyone who has worked together to support our children during this extraordinary time. The endless hours of dedication given by Highland families and staff is recognized and appreciated. Although we may be physically apart, we continue to work toward our mission.

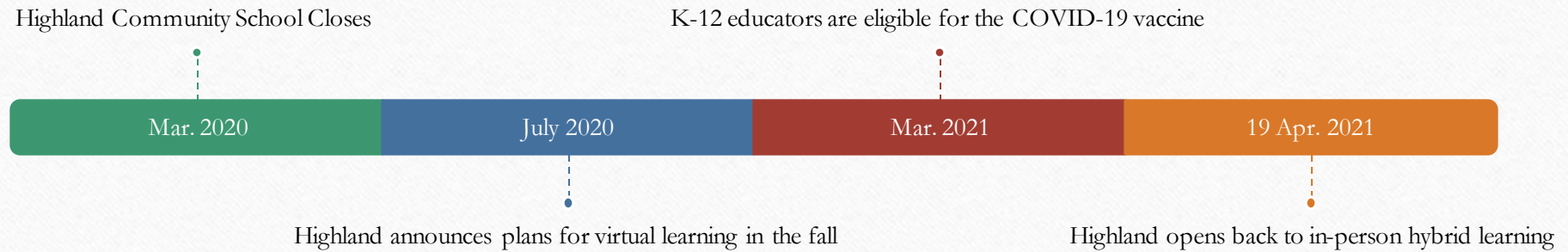
# Our Mission

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We are a community of diverse families and educators working together to offer quality Montessori education in a nurturing environment that enriches, empowers and inspires the whole child to reach their potential. We encourage and support parents to be responsible for and involved with their children's education.



# Where have we been?



# Where are we now?

We have an ongoing and evolving pandemic.

- Current daily case rate for Milwaukee is 34.1 (approx. 319 cases a day)

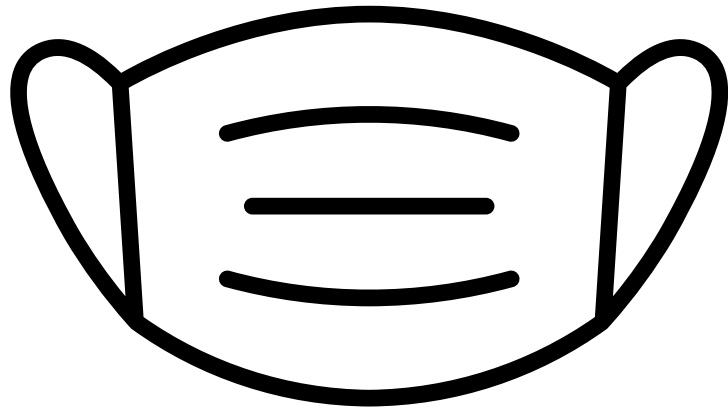
We have more information and a vaccine.

- 52% of city residents over 16 are fully vaccinated.

Highland is committed to in-person learning.

# Masks

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- Everyone needs to *wear a mask at all times*. Regardless of vaccination status, except when eating or napping.
- Please avoid masks with vents.

# Continued Health Protocols—School Wide

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Families should screen children for symptoms at home.

Drop off and pick-up will happen outdoors; visitors to the building will be limited.

Identified entries and exits will be used to create one way traffic flow where possible.

Breakfast and lunch will be eaten in the classroom.

Face coverings are required for everyone 3 years old and older.

Frequent reminders for students and staff will be given to stay at least 3 feet apart from one another.

Water fountains will be closed. Students will use individual water bottles.

High touch areas, such as doorknobs, railings, light and water fixtures, etc. will be sprayed using a non-toxic, EPA-approved disinfectant.

Windows will be open to allow for additional ventilation.

Shared bathrooms will be limited to 4 occupants at a time.



# Cohorts and Distancing

## **In the Classroom:**

- To the extent possible, classrooms should stay isolated from one another
- Classrooms are at full capacity
- 3 feet of distancing among students encouraged (not required)
- 6 feet of distancing while eating or napping
- Children's House will remain in class cohorts at recess

## **Wraparound Programs:**

- Children will not combine groups later in the evening. They will stay with the same staff person until they are picked up.

# HVAC Considerations

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- Quarterly filter changes are done using MERV 10 filters that are doubled (recommended is MERV 7).
- Bi-annual preventative maintenance is done on entire system with inspections during the other 2 filter changes.
- Our HVAC system runs before school hours and does not shut off until well after school hours
- Each classroom will have 1-2 fans based on size of room.
- Bathrooms and kitchen have exhaust fans running continuously.
- Windows will be open to allow for additional air exchange.
- An ionizer has been installed to our HVAC system. 3rd party testing shows it kills Covid-19 in 30 minutes.

# COVID testing

- Voluntary weekly testing begins August 31st.
- Hayat mobile testing onsite every Tuesday, 3-5 PM
  - Self-administered nasal swab
- Please plan to test before school starts
- School COVID screening can identify an additional 40-60% of cases, helping to reduce "silent spread."

# COVID Testing/Vaccination Among Staff

- MPS Board to vote on mandating vaccines for school staff
  - They may require vaccinations for all employees or require unvaccinated staff submit a negative COVID test weekly.
  - **Highland's staff testing/vaccination policy will be finalized soon.**

# Reacting to Symptoms

If you have these symptoms, stay  
home!

## **ONE** of these symptoms

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Fever  
New or worsening  
cough

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Difficulty breathing  
New loss of taste or  
smell  
Nausea  
Diarrhea

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## **TWO** of these symptoms

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Chills  
Muscle/body aches  
Headache

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Sore Throat  
Fatigue/tiredness  
Runny nose

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When  
should we  
stay  
home?



If experiencing symptoms as they are listed on the previous slide.



If notified that you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid (if unvaccinated)



If you have tested positive for Covid

Staff and children will be asked to quarantine if they are considered a close contact and are unvaccinated.

What is a "*close contact*"?

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**A Close Contact** is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for ending home isolation.

- **Exception:** In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.
- This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

# When do I return to school?

- If Close Contact with someone COVID-19 positive:
  - 10-day quarantine OR
  - 7-day quarantine with negative COVID test (day 5 or later) OR
  - Immediately if fully vaccinated and not experiencing symptoms (still encouraged to get tested on day 4 or 5)
- If Covid-19 Positive:
  - At least 10 days or after doctor mandated quarantine (whichever is longest)
- If symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status:
  - Negative COVID test OR
  - Alternative diagnosis from a doctor OR
  - 10-day quarantine



# Arrival

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- Parents will not be permitted inside the building during drop-off and pick-up times. *K3 families may drop off on the playground their child's first day.*
- Times will be staggered by grade level to limit traffic. Siblings may arrive together.

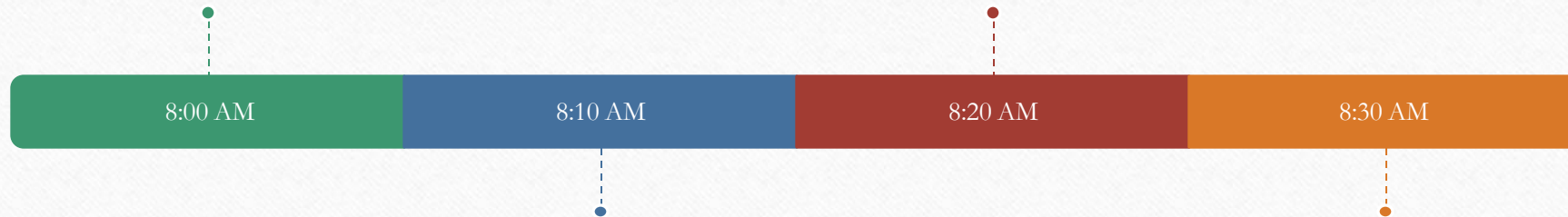
## **Car Drop-off Line**

- Car line will wrap around from Juneau Avenue to 17th Street. If proceeding through the car line, please stay in your vehicle. Staff will guide children to their class line on the playground.
- Families of older children may drop off at the North (Juneau St) gate.
- Children's House families should proceed through the line to the 17th Street entrance.

# Staggered Arrival Times

Upper Elementary (4-6)/  
Adolescent Program (7-8)

Children's House (k3-k5)



Lower Elementary

Highland staff will accept students at the playground gates until 8:30 AM or until the last car in line.

Arriving late, please pull over to 18th Street at the loading dock and call the main office.

## Where to drop-off/ where to park



Children's House families who prefer to walk their child(ren) to the playground, can park east of 18th St. Please do not park on Juneau, 17th or in front of the building on Highland, as these areas are reserved for the car drop-off line, and toddler arrivals. **While construction continues, the only playground access points are at 17th ST and Juneau Ave.**

# Dismissal

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- Afternoon pickup will take place outdoors on 17th Street.
- Families with multiple children should arrive at the latest pick-up time in their family.
- Each family will receive a placard with a unique number for their family.
- Toddler families will dismiss from their classroom doors on Highland Avenue.
- **Students must be picked up by an authorized adult.**

# Staggered Dismissal Times

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- 11:30 AM - K3 students
- 3:15 PM - Children's House (K4 & K5)
- 3:25 PM - Lower Elementary (1-3)
- 3:35 PM - Adolescent Classroom (7-8) & Upper Elementary (4-6)

# Wraparound Programs: Before School Drop-off

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- **For Lower and Upper Elementary Students:**
  - Parents should proceed to the 17th street playground entrance. A staff person will be stationed near the door ready to receive your child. Please make sure that your student is prepared and ready to exit the car.
- **K3, K4, K5, and Toddlers:**
  - Drop-off at their classroom doors on Highland Avenue.

# Wraparound Programs: Afterschool Pick-up

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- Aftercare pick-up will also take place on 17th Street. Students will be released at 30 minute intervals beginning at 4:15 PM:
- 4:15PM\*
- 4:45 PM
- 5:15 PM
- 5:45 PM
- 6:00 PM

\* All students signed up for early aftercare will be released at 4:15PM.

# Breakfast, Snack and Lunch

## Breakfast

- school breakfast will be delivered to the classroom and students will eat in the classroom as soon as they arrive in the morning

## Lunch

- School lunch is available and teachers will order student lunches in the morning. Students may also bring a cold lunch. Students will eat lunch in the classroom.
- Lunch groups | Students will lunch in small groups spaced six feet apart.

## Snack

- Please provide a healthy snack for your child each day. Students will eat their snack in the room.
- Classroom teachers would appreciate donations of healthy back-up snacks.



What  
support  
will a child  
receive if  
they must  
quarantine?

- Children's House
  - At-home activity packet
  - Weekly phone/zoom call to check in
  - Email support as needed
  - Clever account with access to online platforms
  - Tablet for use during quarantine

# Lower and Upper Elementary

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- Quarantine packet for 10 days
- Teacher check-in 1x per week
- Email support
- Chromebook for use during quarantine
- Clever account with access to online platforms

# Adolescent Program

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- Assignments via Google Classroom
- Email support
- Advisor check-in 1x per week
- Chromebook for use during quarantine
- Clever account with access to online platforms

# Communication

The COVID transparency dashboard on Highland's website will be updated daily, M-F at 3 PM beginning Thursday, September 2nd.

- Families will be updated about changing procedures and policies via Notes Home, email and the website.
- If your child is deemed a close contact of a confirmed case you will be notified via letter and email.

# Building & Growing the Good Campaign Update

- Hopeful completion date: October/November
- **THANK YOU**
  - **153 donors** gave a total of **235 gifts** to raise over **\$119,000**.
  - **Herb Kohl Philanthropies** gave the lead gift!
  - **71 Bronze Boxes** sold over the summer.
- We need your help to reach our goal!
  - If you haven't but can, please donate.
  - Who do you know who might want to help?
    - Community leaders, grandparents, neighbors
  - Does your company match donations?

# Any Questions?

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