

Friday, August 7, 2020

Dear Hale Families,

Let me begin by saying hello and welcome to the 2020-21 school year at Hale. I hope you all found some time over the past couple months to relax and enjoy those things in life that bring you happiness and calm. I know many of you are beginning to shift gears and prepare for what Back to School might look like next month and how it will work.

The purpose of this first email, and future communication throughout this month, is to answer some of the more frequently asked questions and help prepare everyone for the start of school through distance learning. Students in grades 1-4 will begin distance learning on September 8th and our new Kindergarten students will follow on September 10th. Our goal is to make sure the entire Hale community is ready and prepared to begin on day one. Below are a few pieces of information that should get us going.

- Our **New School Secretary**, Ana Pineda Ponce, is starting on Monday and will be a great addition to our community. Having said that, she will need some time to acclimate to Hale and our procedures and systems. Please be patient with us as she and I navigate this new year together.
- A **Student Device Survey** will be emailed to you later today. I encourage ALL Hale families to take a few minutes and fill it out. Your prompt responses will help us get needed technology into student hands. Any questions regarding student technology should be directed to our assistant principal, sofia.vladimirova@mpls.k12.mn.us
- Many of you have asked about **Placement of Students** in the same classroom to assist families in teaching students outside of school. At this point, we have placed students in balanced classrooms and will not accommodate these requests. However, grade level teaching teams will collaborate and deliver similar lessons to the entire grade. This will assure that students in different rooms have access to the same lessons and materials.
- The Hale **Open House** on September 1st is officially cancelled due to Covid-19. We are currently brainstorming safe ways in which we can redesign the experience to give students, staff, and families an opportunity to make some personal connections before school begins. Stay tuned for more information.
- **Classroom Assignments** for students will be sent out by mid-August.
- The **Hale Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** is working hard to figure out what family participation and support for Hale School will look like this fall and beyond. Please visit their site for information on membership, school supplies, the Hale directory, and more. <https://hale.mpls.k12.mn.us/pta>
- Looking for more information regarding **Distance Learning** and the Minneapolis Public Schools? <https://b2s.cmf.urbanplanet.com/Res/B2S%20Guidance%20-%20English.pdf>

As always, please feel free to reach out if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

Steve Uhler

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"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

Dr. Seuss