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Dear Hatfield Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Thank you to those who were able to join us earlier this week for our Virtual Kindergarten Orientation and Grades 1-6 Class Meetings. If you were unable to attend, please click here for a Principal welcome video: [Kindergarten](#) and [Grades 1-6](#). If you are still in need of Internet access and/or a device, please contact the school immediately!

Despite an atypical kick-off to the school year, our staff is excited to work with both new families and those returning alike. Know that as a parent, your attitude is contagious, so please remain positive about the upcoming term. Our staff will continue to grow and adapt to the needs of online instruction in order to ensure that we maximize every child's potential!

The mission of Hatfield Elementary School is to encourage all students to aspire to soar above and beyond in the areas of academic achievement, respect for diversity, community involvement, and individual responsibility. Through an inclusive mindset of striving for continuous improvement, our staff will push to maximize every child's potential within a dynamic learning environment that consistently prioritizes rigor. This collaborative effort utilizes a 21st Century approach to education stressing digital citizenship and growth within technological capacities.

Both teachers and students will need to adjust to the needs of a virtual classroom. This will undoubtedly be a challenge, but we can support each other during this process. Parents can help their child adapt to this new learning environment by using the infographic found here: [North Penn Virtual Learning Expectations](#).

There are a few changes at Hatfield in which families should know. We have three classes in K-6; plus, a Pre-K class run through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU). Mrs. Bennett will be moving to fifth grade English Language Arts (ELA), with Mr. Malizia teaching all Science and Social Studies content in that grade level. Mrs. Kuntz will also be joining our Special Education team while Ms. Klein will also provide support and split her time between us and Bridle Path. Both Mrs. McCullough and Mr. Josten have retired after many years of committed service to North Penn -- they will surely be missed.

We also welcome Mr. Huebner from Oak Park as our School Climate Coordinator and wish Mr. Brun well as he returns to Penndale. We are looking forward to Ms. Neri's return to Hatfield after the spring away and will be wishing Mrs. Landy well this fall, too. Ms. Ruth will be temporarily replacing Mrs. Landy as we enter September.

Surely, some of our staffing will look a bit different this year in the virtual setting versus an in-person environment. Know that we will continue to prioritize the needs of all learners and create the best support structures possible.

As a reminder, our instructional day begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. The first day of virtual school is Monday, Aug. 31. Canvas is our new Learning Management System (LMS) for students, with video conferencing conducted via Google Meets. All synchronous (live) instruction will be recorded. Students should dress appropriately and adhere to North Penn's dress code guidelines outlined here: [Elementary Handbook](#).

Attendance will be taken daily. Parents/guardians must still report a student absent by contacting the Main Office, notifying their child(ren)'s teacher, or using the 'Safe Arrival' in the SchoolMessenger app. Note, evidence of assignment completion by teacher-determined deadlines represents an integral aspect for students to be marked present. Unexcused absences will be monitored and you will receive outreach from the school as a result.

As noted last week, Hatfield is a school-wide Title I building, meaning families may qualify for free-or-reduced lunch. Whether or not you believe that you may qualify, each family should complete the online application here: [School Cafe](#).

Please refer here for a list of School Nutrition Services changes expected to begin on Monday, Aug. 31: [SNS 2020-21 Changes](#). Hatfield will still be a pick-up location for meals; however, no more free meals will be provided for all, as free/reduced/paid status will be determined for each child. Families will need to provide identification, North Penn student ID #, and first/last name. Students do not need to be present to pick up meals. The upcoming curbside pick-up details are below:

- Monday, Aug. 31 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meals will be bundled (five days of meals).
- Tuesday Sept. 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m. Also, Wednesday, Sept. 9 from 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Additionally, and as stated in my previous outreach, we appreciate your understanding that we are still waiting on the delivery/organization of various materials. As soon as required items are ready, we will provide relevant information for pick-up.

Next, please remember to mark your calendars between 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17, as we will be hosting our virtual Back to School Night virtually.

Lastly, our Home & School (H&S) will hold its first fund-raiser of the year all day on Friday, Sept. 18 at Mom's Water Ice in Hatfield. If you are able to attend, please remember to socially-distance.

Keep soaring above and beyond,

Mr. Wes Heinel

Principal