



Orono Schools

Where Excellence is a Tradition and a Goal

Orono School District 278

8/17/20

Dear OHS Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We are so excited to welcome our students back, and are continuing to plan for a safe opening. We know there are many questions this year, and that communication will be even more critical as we navigate this new learning model. There will be weekly district updates, as well as building communications. If you are new to OHS, please look for a weekly email sent from me, usually sent on Sundays, once the school year begins. I also encourage you to visit the Orono High School [website](#), which includes a new Student Life tab (under "About Our School") which will include news and updates for each grade level, and the [hybrid A/B calendar](#). At this point, I would like to share with you some important information to help you and your students start the school year.

Backpacks, bags and lockers

Students in hybrid learning should plan to return to school with a backpack or bag to carry their device, school supplies and belongings. At this time, we are unable to assign main hallway lockers in order to comply with current social distancing expectations. We are pleased to be able to assign a socially distanced locker during PE so that students can securely store backpacks and other school items while in PE class. Details regarding PE clothes and shoes will be shared by PE teachers on the first day.

School Supplies and Materials

Students will typically need their device, notebooks, paper, and a pen or pencil for each class. No need to purchase a lot of supplies in advance. On the first day of school, individual teachers will explain the materials needed for their specific class.

Technology

Technology is a crucial part of our teaching and learning program at the high school. Every student will need a working device for the school year. For high school students, there are two options: reserve a school-issued device or bring your own device. Please review the [district letter](#) sent to families on August 12 with details. Students entering 9th grade can take advantage of a \$100 off coupon toward the purchase of a selected device from Best Buy, if desired. More information can be found on the district back-to-school [planning page](#).

Breakfast and Lunch

A breakfast and lunch option will be available for students who select either the hybrid or distance learning option. Although ala carte purchases will not be available at lunch, we anticipate being able to re-evaluate

once the school year is underway and offer these in the near future. Meal prices will remain the same as last year and meal payments can be made on [MyPaymentsPlus](#).

For students in the hybrid model, cafeteria access for breakfast and lunch will be provided. We have added a lunch period to ensure our lunch sizes are small and we can maintain safe distances between students at tables. Tables will be labeled with seating capacity, allowing for a 6-foot social distance. Even with limited numbers of students at each table, we know the lunch periods will provide valuable social time. Students will continue to wear masks while in the lunchroom, in line purchasing food, and entering and exiting the lunchroom. Students can temporarily remove their masks when they are sitting at their tables and eating or drinking. Students will be asked to remain at their tables until the bell rings and they are able to head to their next class. This practice will help us manage student flow through the hallways.

Water Bottles and Snack

Please encourage your child to bring their own refillable water bottles or disposable plastic water bottles. Water bottle refilling stations will be open throughout the building; however, guidelines require that we disconnect traditional drinking fountains for now. Students are welcome to bring a snack from home or purchase a snack before school in the cafeteria. Students will be able to eat during passing periods, prior to their lunch period. Due to the need to create an additional lunch period, and the restrictions on large group gatherings, we are discontinuing a scheduled snack break while in hybrid learning.

9th grade orientation

To support 9th grade and new student transitions, Orono High School is developing virtual resources. Details will be sent to those families the last week in August.

Other back-to-school events

We are working to determine if we are able to hold other back-to-school events within current health and safety guidelines.

Student Schedules

Student schedules will be available at the end of August and notification will come via email to both parents and students. Please check StudentVUE and ParentVUE. Families new to the district will receive separate information on how to access both StudentVUE and ParentVUE.

School Pictures

Please mark your calendars for picture day! Lifetouch will take pictures of students on Thursday, September 10 (B day students) and Friday, September 11 (A day students).

Parking for 2020-21

Applications for student parking passes will open on August 24, 2020 at 9:00 AM. The parking pass fee will be \$218, due at the time of application. Due to COVID-19, high school students may be required to shift between any of the three learning models: in-person, hybrid or distance learning, during the school year. For this reason—and for this year only—the district will evaluate the high school learning model/on-campus days each quarter and consider issuing a one-time, partial refund at the end of the school year.

Parking passes are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Please wait to complete a bus transportation opt-out form until your child has secured a parking pass for the 2020-21 school year. It is helpful to note that most students who apply for a parking pass with a valid driver's license are granted a pass for the school year. (Students should wait until they have their official driver's license before applying as we cannot reserve parking permits.)

To apply: Beginning August 24 at 9:00 AM, please log in to [My Payments Plus](#) found on the district website at the top of the web page. For questions, or if you have not already created an account, please see our [support page](#).

Visitors, Volunteers and Item Drop Off/Pick-Up

We regret that, for the health and safety of students and staff, at this time OHS will not be able to accommodate visitors, volunteers or parent drop-off or pick-up of student items. We look forward to the time in the future when we can open our doors to all families again.

Questions?

Please visit the district's Back-to-School Options [webpage](#) for links to the 2020-21 learning models, FAQs and Health & Safety document, and messages from Dr. Orcutt and principals. For unique questions about your child's learning needs, please do not hesitate to contact your student's [school counselor](#) or ohsmainoffice@orono.k12.mn.us.

Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we begin our new year. We look forward to welcoming your students back to Orono High School!

Sincerely,

Amy Steiner, Ed.D.

Principal, Orono High School

amy.steiner@orono.k12.mn.us

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