



Plainfield High School

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Dear Students and Parents:

In just a few weeks, we will begin the 2020-2021 school year. This school year will be unique as we deal with the challenges that the state is facing with regards to COVID-19. First of all, let me definitively state that our number one priority is the health and safety of our students and staff. To address those safety concerns, we have implemented a number of changes to our school calendar and schedule to better align with COVID safety protocols. For the 2020-2021 school year, Plainfield High School will be briefly opening in a 4x4 hybrid instructional model that blends traditional classroom learning, supported by at-home instruction. The hybrid model allows for smaller classroom cohorts and social distancing protocols. The in-person hybrid model will initially run for four days from September 8th to the 11th. This will allow students to meet their teachers, review course expectations, and review the protocols for remote instruction. On Monday, September 14th, PHS will move to a remote instructional model until October 14th. At that time the district will reevaluate the return to school based on the state's COVID rates. Below you will find an overview of our new schedule and procedures for the start of the school year. Families that elect for fully remote learning will receive further information directly from their teachers about using Google classroom.

- PHS will open in a 4x4 hybrid instructional model. In a 4x4 students are only required to carry four (4) courses per semester. This schedule still allows students to earn up to eight (8) credits per year.
- While the hybrid model is in place, all PHS students will be placed into one of two cohort groups. Students whose last name starts with the letters **A-K** will be placed into the **"A" cohort** and will attend Plainfield High School on **Mondays and Wednesdays**. Students whose last names start with **L-Z** will be placed in the **"B" cohort** and will attend Plainfield High School on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. On Fridays, all students will attend school online, and staff will be available online to assist students.
- The first day of school for students is Tuesday, September 8, 2020. That day will be a **Half day** for **ALL "B" cohort students**. The second day, Wednesday, September 9, 2020, will also be a **Half day** for **ALL "A" cohort students**. There will be special orientation activities planned for the day including receipt of Student Agendas. There will be **NO locker assignments** at the beginning of the year, however, students **WILL be** allowed to carry their backpacks from room to room.
- Student dismissal times have been adjusted by 30 minutes this year to better accommodate the transportation schedule. The new instructional day schedule for students is **7:15 – 1:15**.

- For safety reasons, all students and staff are **expected to wear a mask at all times during the day, including on the bus, in the school hallways, and while in their classes.** Students will be allowed to take off their masks for lunches while adhering to proper distancing and safety protocols. Students who do not comply with wearing a mask will be sent home for remote instruction.
- Students arriving late to school are to come to the lower level entrance and buzz in. Students will then be checked in. Parents who are picking up students must either buzz in through the lower entrance or call the attendance office when they arrive on-site for remote dismissal.
- School tours for incoming freshmen and new students can be arranged on an individual basis by appointment. Please contact the school to arrange an individual tour.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices will not be allowed for general use during the school day (7:15-1:15). Students must keep cell phones and other electronic devices put away unless directed by the teacher to be used for instructional purposes. Earbuds and headphones are not to be used during the school day, unless directed by the teacher for instructional purposes. Parents who need to contact their child during the day are asked to call the school at 860-564-6422. Students who need to contact a parent/guardian may use the Main Office or Attendance Office phone.
- **Informational Packet:** The students' opening packets are included with this mailing. The packet contains some important forms that must be completed and returned. Please take the time to review the Student Registration/Information form which is enclosed with this letter. If any of your child's information has changed, please complete the necessary sections that require updating. Otherwise, simply fill in **the signature of a parent/guardian and the student before returning it is required.** The Student Handbook will be provided to each student on the first day of school. **It is extremely important that these forms be returned to the block 2 teacher by the week of September 21st.** Many of these forms are in response to State of Connecticut mandates.
- Grade level responsibilities of the assistant principals for the 2020-2021 school year are: **Mrs. Kelleher - grades 10, 12** **Mr. Cote -grades 9, 11**

We ask for your support in adhering to these policies while we navigate these challenging times. In closing, I just want to remind students that attending classes every day, either virtually or in-person is vitally important to your success. The strength of Plainfield High School comes from the community of staff, students, and parents working together to support each other. We are Plainfield Strong, and we will get through this, together!

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Bitgood, PhD.
Principal