



Hapeville Charter Schools – Return to School, SY 2021-2022

Greetings Hapeville Charter family! The 2021-2022 school year is just around the corner! Given all the available information, we will return to full face to face instruction for SY 2021-2022.

As summer draws down and we prepare for the new school year, two very important measures must be considered and acted upon in order to safely reopen our schools:

- Mask wearing ~ Minimizing the inherent risks of exposure and contagion. We will not mandate this – but will strongly encourage the use of masks.
- Vaccination ~ Encourage (as we cannot mandate) our staff and faculty in all locations to vaccinate as soon as possible. We know we need to return to the classroom, but we have to do so in a very intentional and cautious manner.

School Districts and Schools that have made these two main elements the priority of the reopening plan have seen above average results (some incidents, but not widespread contagions and closures). Certainly, several other elements have to be a part of the total plan, such as:

- Social distancing
- Hand Washing and Sanitizing
- Contact Tracing – the effective use of all mechanisms to report and trace all that have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, and all they may have come in contact with.

The continuous monitoring of positive infectious rates as reported by each county health department will continue to inform our decisions and plans. Unfortunately, our South Fulton area was hit quite hard in terms of positivity rates and impacts to the community.

The CDC has provided reopening guidance; following are the key takeaways:

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.
- Handwashing, staying home when sick, getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home if/when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Schools should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

We are looking forward to having everyone back on campus for the 2021-2022 school year and will do everything in our power to ensure a safe and productive learning environment. Together we can make this a great year; I thank you in advance for your continued support and understanding as we navigate the activities ahead.

Go Hornets!

Mike Ramos
Executive Director
Hapeville Charter Schools