

HIGHLANDER HILLTOP 1/15

Happy Friday Highlander families,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family doing well, and your children excited for a three day weekend, celebrating Martin Luther King Day on Monday. Reflecting on Dr. King, I always find myself amazed by just how much impact one individual can have on society. He exemplified the qualities of peace, compassion, determination, and courage; and is a reminder of how we should always strive to make life better tomorrow than it is today. I



hope we all can take some time over this long weekend to consider just how powerful his "dream" was, and what we can each do as individuals to fulfill it.

I look forward to bringing our students back into the building this week. It has been painful for the educators of Portland Middle School to be away from their students during this time of distance, and we are looking forward to having them in our classrooms once again. Of course, that anticipation also comes with a call for increased vigilance for all students and families to continue

practicing safe social distancing and mask wearing practices to protect our students, teachers, and families from the virus. Please see below my attached notices to the Blue and Red hybrid groups, which includes more specifics about our mask and social distancing practices. The next two weeks of hybrid will give our students the opportunity to get used to these practices in school once again before transitioning to a full return, and I will personally be going around to each classroom over next week to remind and reinforce our expectations to students. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at chershon@portlandct.us.

Have a wonderful weekend,
Chuck

 [@ChuckHershon](https://twitter.com/ChuckHershon)

Face Coverings

Students are required to wear face coverings on the bus and on school property. If your child does not have one, the school will provide one. We will do our best to provide multiple mask breaks throughout the day, including lunch; however, only when we can do so safely. This includes increasing social distance and minimizing volume during those times. We understand that this is not an easy task for students; however, we do need your help preparing your child for this requirement in order to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Social Distancing

All individuals must maintain at least six feet of social distance whenever possible. We will help your child understand the importance of this and provide many visuals. Please make sure to reinforce this requirement with your children. Teachers will need to be within the six foot range at times to assist students, however this will be done only when necessary and for as short a duration of time as possible.

Recent Changes to Further Improve Safety:

- Mask breaks will be scheduled at designated times and locations for each classroom to ensure that cohorts are not mixing with one another.
- Mask break locations have been marked to indicate six foot increments.
- Some rooms have been further rearranged to minimize movement.
- Mask/Social Distancing Expectations Slips will be sent home for parent signature when students are unable to follow these protocols.
- Increased frequency of building sanitization.

Headphones/AirPods/Airbuds should be brought to school each day

PLEASE REMEMBER TO DRESS ACCORDINGLY WITH THE WEATHER. MASK BREAKS MAY BE OUTSIDE WHENEVER POSSIBLE.



If you are in the **RED** Cohort you will be coming to school in person on January **19, 20, 25, 26, and 29th**. On the days that you are not here, you will be doing your classes on line.

If you are in the **BLUE** Cohort you will be coming to school in person on January **21, 22, 27 and 28th**. On the days that you are not here, you will be doing your classes on line.

IMPORTANT: Wednesday, January 20th is a 2 hour delay.

January 2021

A and B Day Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
18	19	20	21	22
MLK Day – No School	B Day	A Day 2 Hour Delay	B Day	A Day
25	26	27	28	29
B Day	A Day	B Day	A Day	B Day Last Day of Term 2

Red in School: 19, 20, 25, 26 and 29
 Blue in School: 21, 22, 27, and 28
 All in school as of February 1 (except PVLA)

M,T,Th,F Daily Schedule				Wednesday Schedule	
Day A		Day B		A or B Day	
Period	Time	Period	Time	Period	Time
HR	7:45-7:50	HR	7:45-7:50	HR	7:45-7:50
1	7:51-9:16	1	7:51-9:16	1	7:51-9:07
2	9:20-10:45	2	9:20-10:45	Advisory	9:10-9:40
3 / Lunch	10:49-12:45	3 / Lunch	10:49-12:45	2	9:43-11:00
4	12:49-2:15	4	12:49-2:15	3 / Lunch	11:03-12:55
				4	12:58-2:15

Middle School Yearbooks are available to purchase! The 7th Grade Computer Science classes are working on this year's Yearbook. The price is \$20 and can be ordered online now! Follow the website below:

<https://www.iostens.com/apps/store/customer/1037183/Portland-Middle-School/>