



HGMICS CEO Update - September 25, 2020

Howard Gardner MI Charter School <marie.george@myhgsd.com>

Fri, Sep 25, 2020 at 8:54 AM

Dear Members of the Howard Gardner Community,

Yesterday we experienced a disruption to our water service because of a nearby water main break that was repaired later in the day. Within an hour of announcing early dismissal, all students had departed the building via their bus/van or family pickups. Thanks to all for your quick and understanding response. Despite the water disruption, the daily school-wide cleaning/disinfecting protocol took place prior to reopening today.

Please note the following 9 important updates:

1. 2020-21 School Calendar Update

Currently, the school calendar includes a half-day of school on Friday, October 30th. To afford a similar schedule for A and B cohorts, a **half-day will also be scheduled on Thursday, October 29th**. On both those half days, the School will **celebrate Halloween** with details forthcoming. Please mark your calendar and plan accordingly.

2. Q & A Meetings with Parents/Guardians

TreeAnne and I will hold two Q & A Sessions; one for parents/guardians of students enrolled in the All-Remote Hybrid Program and another session with parents/guardians of students enrolled in the At-School Hybrid Program.

All-Remote Session: Wednesday, September 30 @ 5:30 p.m.

At-School Session: Wednesday, October 7 @ 5:30 p.m.

Please notify Janet Kania if you plan to attend by 9 a.m. of the scheduled meeting day and a Zoom invite will be sent to your email prior to the start of the meeting. If you have any specific question(s) you wish addressed, please forward those to Janet as well janet.kania@myhgsd.com

3. Student Pictures

Plans are underway for student pictures to be taken and additional information will be forthcoming. All students/classes, including all-remote students, will be assigned a specific time. As in the past, pictures will be taken outdoors.

4. Health and Safety Plan

The **Updated** Health and Safety Plan, approved by the Board on September 15, 2020, is now **located on the School's website** on the COVID Resources page. Substantive changes since the original July 2020 approval include the All-remote program, Pandemic Coordinator is Joe Ross, new guidance on facial covering issued on August 10th, additional safety/health procedures and supplies (including a daytime cleaning person), and more recent PA Department of Health guidance.

5. Student Arrival and Recorded Temperatures

With the advent of cooler mornings, students have been **registering temperatures at or above 100.4 degrees**, which is understandably due to car heaters being turned on. **Please consider** lowering or turning off

car heaters as you approach the school. Thank you.

6. Personnel

I am pleased to announce that **Maria Guido**, who was initially hired as a Teacher Aide at the start of the school year has been promoted to Learning Support Teacher. Maria is certified in PK-4 and K-8 Special Education. The School now has three learning support teachers to provide case management and support services to our special education students.

To replace Maria, join me in welcoming **Canan Guler** as Teacher Aide who will primarily support the Senior teachers and students. Canan (pronounced *ja-non*) is an experienced teacher with certifications in PK-4 and French PK-12, who will also serve as a substitute teacher for the School when needed.

7. HGMICS Sports Program

Initial discussions took place last year about expanding the athletic/sports programming at HGMICS. We would like to restart those discussions and **develop an athletic sports program** for our students to enjoy that includes competitive games with local schools, as appropriate. These planning efforts would allow us to have a more robust sports program for the 2021-2022 school year. Please contact me if you are interested and/or indicate your interest when completing the annual Parent Forum Volunteer Survey. **A future date** will be announced for those wanting to attend the first organizational meeting. Coach Brian Kubilus and I will lead that discussion.

8. Construction Project Update

As always, the public is invited to attend the **Board of Trustees Meetings** held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Until further notice, all meetings will be held remotely via a Zoom webinar. Occasionally special meetings are called for time-sensitive matters. To advance work on the construction/renovation project, a **Special Board Meeting was held on September 23, 2020.**

At Wednesday's special board meeting, awards were announced for the 4 low-bid, prime contractors as follows: **General Trades:** Mar-Paul Construction; **HVAC:** Scranton Electrical Heating and Cooling Company; **Plumbing:** Scranton Electrical, Heating and Cooling Company; and **Electrical:** Joyce Electrical, Inc. The prime contractors along with our Architects from Hemmler/Camayd, Engineers from GPI, and Construction Manager from Sordoni Construction will collaborate with the School in **value engineering to reduce costs** while substantively retaining the objectives of the project. Project objectives are two-fold 1) to provide adequate classroom space for all teachers/students and 2) to improve the arrival/dismissal process and visitor entrance to the school. Once the targeted budget for the project is achieved, a construction timeline will be developed. I will keep you posted on our progress.

9. Parent Forum

The Parent Forum had a great first meeting with many ideas discussed about upcoming events and family engagement. Their next meeting is October 8th via Zoom at 7 p.m. Kudos to the Parent Forum for their new website that I encourage you to visit at www.parentforumhgs.org Family engagement is an important component that sets the Howard Gardner MI Charter School apart. Please consider volunteering your time and sharing your interest/expertise by completing their annual volunteer survey [HGMICS Parent Volunteer Form 2020/2021](#).

Please contact me should you have any questions about this message or any other matters. And, importantly, continue to be well and stay safe.

All the best,
Marie George