



July 20, 2020

Dear Upper School Students and Families,

As we round the corner from a school year unlike any other we've experienced to another school year that is going to be different from our norm, I wanted to be in touch with you to outline some important information. First and foremost, please know that we are working hard to get everyone the same outstanding education we've always provided at Holland Hall. Part of that effort is about creating safe protocols on campus. Another part of that effort is to concentrate on how we will provide top-notch classes to those who are attending school from home, whether for longer or shorter periods of time.

Please know, also, that we understand that nerves are running a bit higher this year with the start of school. Whether the nervousness stems from the health risks of being in larger groups of people or whether it comes simply from the fact that we've all gone a long time without the routine of being *at school*, we acknowledge that we are going through a bigger transition in coming back to school this year. We believe that the social, emotional, and academic development of students at school is important, and we are striving to provide that opportunity as safely as we can, while simultaneously offering families options for at-home learning.

Many of the bedrock elements of our community will remain in place this year. We will continue to have morning meeting and chapel (though it will be livestreamed to some and live for others on a rotating basis). We will open the school year with a theme from the Class of 2021, decorations in the Commons, and raucous cheering to welcome the underclassman to campus. I, for one, am very much looking forward to the energy and fun-filled activities at the beginning of school. This summer, Student Council has been working hard to come up with fun activities, whether dress up days or perhaps a socially distanced movie on the Tandy green to keep our students engaged and having fun in safe ways.

This year, we will have three new faculty members in the Upper School:

- **Matt Campbell:** Mr. Campbell comes to us from Tulsa Public Schools and Tulsa Community College. He has his BA and MA in American History from the University of Tulsa. He is passionate about getting to know students well and creating engaging activities during class. We are excited to welcome Matt back to Holland Hall, as a member of the Class of 2000. Mr. Campbell will be teaching US History and Senior Social Studies electives.

- **Grace Weber:** Ms. Weber comes to us, having just finished her Masters of Science in Physics at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She has participated in research and taught students of all ages. She is enthusiastic about hands-on learning in the science classroom. We are excited to welcome Grace back to Holland Hall, as a member of the Class of 2012. Ms. Weber will be teaching Physics and Engineering Principles and Honors Physics.
- **Troy Tokarchik:** Mr. Tokarchik comes to us from Bishop Kelley where he has been teaching math and coaching girls' soccer for twenty-one years. He has his undergraduate degrees in mathematics and secondary education and a Master's degree in applied mathematics. He won the Radio Shack National teacher of the Year Award in 2001. Mr. Tokarchik will be teaching Algebra I, Algebra II, and the Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry elective.

As of the writing of this letter, we have **twenty-four new students** joining us in the Upper School. They come from thirteen area schools, and represent interests in all areas of our curricular and extracurricular offerings. We are thrilled to welcome this talented group of students and to celebrate their gifts in our community.

Included in this mailing, you will find additional information that will be important to have as school begins. For the first time, to my knowledge, we are providing a suggested Supply List in the Upper School, in order for students not to have to share resources as often at school. In addition, please be sure to read the Student/Parent Handbook on the school website, with particular attention to our Covid-19 updates to our Attendance policy. The Upper School Attendance Quick Guide and Computer Recommendations for the 2020-21 school year will also be posted on the parent portal.

Sincerely,

Frances Fondren-Bales
Head of Upper School

2020-21 Upper School Notes for Families

Health Forms

All student [health forms](#) are due on July 31, 2020. Please complete these forms immediately so that your child may attend school and/or the first day of athletic practice. Per OSSAA regulations, your child may not participate in athletic practices until the school has all health forms. However, forms are required for all students, not just those participating in sports. Forms may be faxed to (918) 879-4798, emailed to lchristensen@hollandhall.org, or mailed to the school (Attn: Linda Christensen). Here is the list of forms we must receive:

1. [The blue HH Emergency and Health Information form](#)
2. The two-page [HH Physical form](#) and [Medical History form](#)
4. The [HH Authorization for administration of Prescription Medication and Asthma Contract](#) (ONLY if your child will be taking a prescription medication at school)
5. [The OSSAA Cardiac Acknowledgement form](#)
6. [The OSSAA Concussion Acknowledgement form](#)

Temporary Dress Code Change due to Covid-19

With the understanding that students are going to be wearing masks frequently in the Upper School, we have decided to make ties optional for both boys and girls during the 2020-21 school year. Simply put: we feel that the heat and discomfort caused by wearing a mask is compounded by the wearing of a tie, and we want to help students and faculty to be more comfortable.

Suggested Supply List

In order to avoid sharing supplies at school, we are providing this suggested **supply list**. Every student will be given a Holland Hall individual white board as their start of school gift. We will want them to keep it in their backpack for the many white board activities our teachers do in class. In addition to the white board, it would be helpful for students to bring the items listed below with them to school. Students may certainly choose to leave items in their lockers:

New items this year:

- Scissors
- Tape or Glue Stick
- Dry Erase Marker(s)
- Colored pencils (small set)
- Small plastic pencil sharpener

- Bottle of Hand Sanitizer
- Towel or blanket (in case classes or lunch take place outside)
- Netflix (this is being requested for 9th grade students by Global Issues teachers who would like for them to have access to many of the documentaries if we were to return to Remote Learning)
- Ear buds or Headphones

As usual:

- Pens/pencils/highlighters
- Graphing Calculator (TI-83+ or TI-84 series)
- Graph paper
- Textbooks
- Macbook
- Notebooks of students' choosing
- Water bottle

New Student/Parent Orientation — for all 9th grade AND students/parents who are new to Holland Hall

This year, we will welcome and orient all 9th grade students and students who are new to Holland Hall on Friday, August 28, in a socially distanced manner. The schedule will consist of the following events:

- **8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.:** All students enter campus through the thermal scanner in the Upper School and then head to the Branch Theatre for a Technology Orientation
- **10:30 a.m.:** Break with a snack
- **10:45 a.m.:** 10th and 11th grade students leave campus with buddies for an event, including lunch
- **10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. :** 9th grade students circulate to US classrooms for small group work with senior Freshman Orientation leaders
- **12:15 - 12:45 p.m.:** Sack lunch for 9th grade students
- **12:45 - 2 p.m.:** Outdoor games for 9th grade students with Freshman Orientation leaders
- **2:00 p.m.:** 10th and 11th grade students return to campus
- **2 - 2:30 p.m.:** 9th-11th grade students meet with their advisors to get their schedules and locker assignments

In addition, advisors to families who are new to Holland Hall will organize a conference with Google Meet, in order to ensure that you are getting answers to any questions you have during the first week of school.

First Two Days of school

- First Day of School - *Tuesday, September 1*
 - Begins at 8:00 a.m. - students will report to their Advisory rooms after walking through the thermal body scanner
 - All students will be released at 12 p.m.
 - All students are expected to be in regular uniform on this day
 - There will be no breakfast or lunch on this day
- Second Day of School - *Wednesday, September 2*
 - Regular school day
 - 8:00 a.m. start
 - 3 p.m. dismissal
 - Normal “A Day” Schedule
 - First Dutch Day of the year
 - On Dutch Days, all students may wear a Holland Hall t-shirt or outerwear with jeans or any other non-athletic bottoms. We ask that students not wear athletic clothing (gym shorts, sweatpants, or leggings) and that other items not be ripped.

Students Arriving before 7:45 a.m. or staying after 3:30 p.m.

In the Primary and Middle Schools, we offer an Extended Day Program or After Care for students who need to arrive early or stay late. In the Upper School, we’ve always given our students the freedom to arrive early or stay late independently, as long as they are in certain defined areas within the school campus.

This year, due to Covid-19 and the need for increased attention to social distancing, we will ask all students arriving before 7:45 a.m. to go to the Upper School Commons where they can be seated in a socially distanced manner. In the afternoon, we will have teachers in charge of overseeing students who need to stay on campus but who are not involved in athletics. This will be offered to families free of charge. It is simply an added layer of oversight to help during the era of Covid-19. Unlike years past, we will need an accurate roster of students who will be taking advantage of this offering.

If your child is going to stay in the US after 3:30 p.m. (whether the entire afternoon or after athletics is over), please fill out the form titled Sign up for Extended Day in the Upper School in the parent portal by Monday, August 10. We ask that all students be picked up by 6 p.m.

Visitors on Campus

In order to limit the number of people on campus, we are asking parents not to enter the buildings at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Please know that we want to connect with parents in timeframes and ways that suit everyone’s needs. If parents would like to meet, we will certainly

do so by phone or Google Meet. Hopefully, health issues will improve quickly and we will be able to ease this limitation.

Upper School Parents' Association meetings

I would like to encourage all parents to join us for our monthly meetings. We meet at 12 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. For the time being, these meetings will be livestreamed.

Class Schedules and Locker Assignments

These will be available to students on the first day of school. 9th grade students and students who are new to Holland Hall will receive their class schedules and locker assignments at the Orientation the day before school starts.

Lunch

Students will eat with their third block class during the school day. Students may bring their lunch or purchase lunch from school. Students who bring their lunch will be able to keep their lunches in their lockers or their backpacks. Refrigeration and microwaves will not be provided. For those who choose to purchase lunch, Flik will provide a boxed lunch option that will have 2-3 choices (for example: sandwich/potato salad/fruit, chef salad/fruit OR wrap/chips/fruit). Parents will be able to order lunches a week in advance using an App called Nutrislice. Costs will be between \$5.00 and \$7.00 depending on the age of the student. Menu items will expand during the year if possible.

Schedules and Textbooks

Many families have, understandably, been asking about ordering books for the 2020-21 school year. Normally, we have our schedule ready by the beginning of July and students can order books throughout July. Unfortunately, we are a bit later in our timetable this year. Once the schedule is finished (which we think will be soon!), we will communicate with you through your PCR parent portal.

Please make sure you have logged into your parent portal and updated your demographic information, which will determine where you get your Holland Hall emails and phone calls — including emergency phone calls.

1. Login here: go.hollandhall.org/parentportal

2. Go to the **Family** tab. You will be presented with Directory/Contact Information and other demographic information from the system.
3. If any information needs to be updated, use the sidebar on the left to navigate to those areas.
4. Again, please make sure the Directory/Contact Information is correct as school communications will be sent using that information.

The latest we plan to provide individual student schedules is Monday, August 3. If the schedule is finished that close to the start of school, the faculty will be aware that the students may not have their books at the start of school. Hopefully, that will not be the case, but please know that we will be prepared no matter what the scenario!

Even without schedules, students in the US may go ahead and order books for their core curriculum classes. Lists can be found at [MBS website](#). Students were encouraged to make a copy of the Course Requests Google document in the spring when they submitted it to the school. We suggest students reference that document should they need a reminder about their core courses. Families should not purchase books for electives until the schedules are available.

When you are ready to order books, on the parent page of the Holland Hall website, hollandhall.org, go to the [Bookstore link to the MBS website](#) (new, used, or digital copies) based on the classes in which he/she is enrolled. You can also find the ISBN numbers there in order to purchase the books from other vendors.

From College Counseling

Regarding ACT and SAT testing: Believe it or not, there *IS good* news regarding college admission testing.

- 1) More test dates have been added (See below).
- 2) More and more colleges (as in most - but not all) are now offering the Class of 2021 “test-optional admission.”

Our advice is that if you are happy with your score, please send it directly from ACT or SAT to the colleges to which you will apply. If you are hesitant to send your score, consult with us. If you choose not to send a score, the other parts of your application will take more weight and consideration: Your course rigor, your overall GPA, the activities in and out of school that you’ve participated in, your writing, and in some cases your knowledge of, and demonstrated interest in, the college. Again, talk with college counseling so that together we can decide your best path and options. Questions? Contact Brent Casey, Director of College Counseling, bcasey@hollandhall.org

Test Dates

ACT

Registration for tests opens the last week in July. Sign up now for email reminders at actstudent.org

NOTE: A student can only sign up and take the ACT once per month for national testing. So if a student wanted to take the ACT in September on a national test date, and then take the test on October 6 as part of the district testing, (only Holland Hall) they could still sign up and take it again on one of the national test dates in October.

September 12

September 13

September 19

October 6 – *Tentative test at Holland Hall. Holland Hall 12th and 11th grade students only.*

Seating preference to 12th grade students, followed by 11th grade students. More information to follow as we get closer to the date.

October 10

October 17

October 24

October 25

December 12

February 6, 2021

April 17, 2021

June 12, 2021

July 17, 2021

SAT

August 29 (*Registration is currently open for this test*)

September 26

October 3

November 7

December 5

March 13, 2021

May 8, 2021

June 5, 2021

College Boot Camp for Class of 2021: Stay tuned for more information, dates, and times. This event is optional.