



July 17, 2020

Dear Primary School Families,

When we walked out of Holland Hall on March 11, none of us expected the school year to end the way it did. The abrupt ending to face-to-face instruction and the sudden shift to remote learning challenged all of us. If we learned anything, we learned the importance of being together. I know you join in my excitement as we open school — for the first time in 155 days — on **August 25!** Please know everyone has been working diligently all summer to prepare for a safe and smooth reopening of school.

As we look forward to the upcoming school year, our theme for the Primary School this year is JOY. We are going to focus on finding joy where we can, even in the simplest ways. We will find joy in spending time with classmates on the playground. We will find joy in asking a teacher a question and getting an immediate and live response. I encourage you to try and find joy while waiting in the drop-off line in the morning! Being back together will bring all of us JOY!

For the upcoming school year, many things will remain the same in the Primary School. Students will still get recess. We will have Specials. Our gifted teachers and beautiful curriculum will guide instruction, building on individual student strengths. We are going to be okay.

Some things are going to look and feel different. One of the biggest changes will be lunch. Most of you have already heard that lunches will be eaten in the classrooms. Students may choose to bring their own lunch or purchase lunch through Flik. Families choosing to purchase lunch through Flik will order and pay through a website. More information about lunch purchases will be available on the Holland Hall website soon. For this year, we will also not be allowing lunchtime food drops or delivery of food.

The other notable change concerns family and visitor access to the building. Unlike years past, families will not be allowed into the school building. If your child forgets something they must have for the school day, please call and someone from the office will meet you outside. We want to stand in partnership with our families and are looking for additional ways to include families in classroom activities, such as livestreaming class birthday parties and events.

We welcome families to join us on **Tuesday, August 25**, during our annual Open House. In an effort to keep low numbers of people in the building, we are adopting the following schedule for this year's Open House:

Time	Last Name Begins With:
8:00-9:00 a.m.	A-F
9:00-10:00 a.m.	G-K
10:00-11:00 a.m.	L-Q

11:00 a.m.-noon	R-Z
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Please help us keep this event safe by arriving and departing during your designated time and by wearing a mask. We are asking everyone in attendance to wear a mask this day. If you have multiple children, please visit each classroom during the allotted time. The first day of classes in the Primary School will be **Wednesday, August 26**.

Our beginning teacher conferences will be held virtually using Google Meet this year. Look for a sign-up sheet during Open House or an invitation from your child's teacher.

As you begin to sort through the many emails and letters surrounding the start of the school year, please pay special attention to completing and returning the required health forms requested by our school nurses. These are due July 31. Forms may be emailed to lchristensen@hollandhall.org, or mailed to the school (Attn: Linda Christensen).

1. Updated immunization record (Kindergarten and new students)
2. [Authorization for Administration of Prescription Medication](#), if your child will be taking prescription medication at school.

Also, please take a moment to read the updated Primary School Student-Family Handbook available online at hollandhall.org/parents. This handbook outlines many of the policies and procedures and has been updated to reflect changes for this upcoming school year, particularly our arrival and dismissal procedures. For this school year, we are asking all families to drop off all students at the flagpole. This will be the only entrance into the building. School personnel will help your child from your vehicle and escort them to the building. Please do not park and walk your children into the building. We will communicate to you when our arrival procedures return to normal.

I know most of you are anxious to learn of your child's class placement. Please make sure you have updated your PCR account information, because you will find this information there.

1. Please 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.

Like you, I am counting down the days until August 25. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. While the start of this school year will look and feel different than in years past, I am confident that as soon as the students walk through the door (and fever cam), it will feel just like it did on March 11 — only better! And that brings me JOY.

In partnership,

Vanessa Jones
Head of the Primary School