



HERON SCHOOL

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August 3, 2020

Dear Heron Families,

I am excited to welcome you all to the 2020-2021 school year at Heron TK-8! I know we are in a very different and difficult time, but the safety and continued learning of our students remains our top priority. Our teachers and staff have been working very hard to prepare for a successful school year, and our Heron mission to bring joyful learning and academic achievement to all students remains the same. Heron TK-8 is a special place that knows and cares for each of our students, providing the support they need to achieve academic and personal growth. We engage with our community to provide a rigorous and nurturing learning environment where students learn to collaborate, communicate, and treat each other with kindness and respect. These are our values at Heron, and I look forward to working closely with you this school year to bring this educational experience to our students, whether we are distance learning or physically at school together.

As we begin to think about how this school year will be different for all of us, I want you to know that we are dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment that continues to have enriching opportunities for your child to SOAR. Distance learning will look different than it did in the spring. Teachers will be providing no less than 3 hours of interactive, real-time virtual instruction to TK-6th grade students daily. Students will also have time to work independently on their assignments and will also receive opportunities for social emotional learning and activities that connect them to school. Our middle school students are expected to attend all of their classes each day based on their assigned schedule which they will receive prior to the start of school. Middle school students will also have a modified day that is on a rotated schedule in order to maximize instructional time for all classes they are taking. All teachers will also have daily office hours to allow students and parents to reach them virtually for added support or questions. Please refer to our [distance learning schedule document](#), which outlines the components of your students' day and some example schedules.

Our Heron School staff is committed to providing a focused curriculum that is both engaging and challenging in order to ensure that our students graduate college and career ready, productive, responsible and engaged global citizens. Our strong Responsive Classroom practices and our STEAM-based learning opportunities will be foundational to our distance learning model. Our partnerships need to continue to be strong in order to keep us moving forward. I look forward to working with you this year, and I am confident that together we can provide our students with a high quality education and positive learning experience.

Important Dates Coming Up:

- **Heron Curriculum (Textbooks and Workbooks) & Technology Distribution Days**
 - Thursday, August 6th 8:00-12:00 pm (Alphabetical schedule used for morning distribution times)
 - Thursday, August 13th 8:00-12:00 pm, 5:30-7:30 pm
 - Thursday, August 20th 8:00-12:00 pm
 - Friday, August 21st 8:00-12:00 pm
 - Monday, August 24th 8:00-12:00 pm, 5:30-7:30 pm
 - Tuesday, August 25th 8:00-12:00
 - Wednesday, August 26th 8:00-12:00
- **Welcome Back Flyer Friday, August 21st 3:00-6:00**
 - Drive-Through Event! Come during your designated time to pick up your child's middle school schedule or elementary teacher welcome letter! Teachers, staff, and I will be ready to greet students and welcome them back to a new school year!
- **First day of Distance Learning: Thursday, August 27th.**
 - **Start times:** TK-6th @ 8:15 a.m., 7-8 @ 8:05 a.m.

In Partnership,

Amy Whitten
Heron TK-8 Principal