

September 14, 2020

Dear Trotter Families,

I hope you are safe, healthy, and rested after the holiday weekend!

Our school team continues to work diligently to plan for a safe, supportive, inclusive start to school—one that prioritizes community connection, social-emotional support, and rigorous and engaging learning experiences for all our students. We are committed to doing this work in ways that affirm and support our students in the fullness of who they are . . . and in ways that work toward a more just and antiracist world. I am grateful to all the families, staff, and community partners that have chosen the Trotter to share this journey and I look forward to the work ahead.

I know Trotter families have been anxiously awaiting announcements on their students' homeroom assignment and cohort assignment for the fall 2020. **As of yesterday you should have received your learning model choice update.** I recognize how difficult this has been and I appreciate your patience and support as we work through what is an unprecedented set of circumstances.

What We Know:

Technology: I know there are many questions about access to chromebooks to support remote learning in the BPS. Here is the most current information available:

- **Phase 1:** New students in need of BPS Chromebook (Phase 1 began September 8th)
 - Emails were being sent on a rolling basis to students and families for appointments.
 - 7 different pick up sites across the city for pick-up by appointment only (10-15 minutes per appointment).
 - If you were not able to pick up your child's chromebook further details will follow as to next steps.
- **Phase 2:** Students that have been enrolled in BPS prior to SY20/21 in need of a BPS replacement broken BPS Chromebooks contact Mr. Apperwhite at wapperwhite@bostonpublicschools.org. **Please note: due to the staggered arrival and distribution of devices, we are prioritizing families who face financial barriers to accessing chromebooks in their home first during this phase to ensure that those in need have immediate access to technology.*

Internet Access: For families in need of support with internet access:

- Families can sign up for 60 day free Comcast Internet Essentials
 - Coupon code can be applied after and **SSN is not required**
 - We are awaiting codes for extension for rest of school year
 - Verizon hotspots that were deployed in the spring have been extended and will continue to work. If yours is NOT working please make sure it remains plugged in

for 24 hours and try it again and if you are not successful please contact Mr. Apperwhite or Mr. Prophete at wapperwhite@bostonpublicschools.org or jprophete@bostonpublicschools.org.

All Technology Questions or Support:

- Mr. Apperwhite wapperwhite@bostonpublicschools.org or
- Mr. Prophete jprophete@bostonpublicschools.org.

What We're Working On:

- **[New] Trotter School Schedule:**
 - **All students will begin the year remote.** The first day of school for all students (K0-8) will be **September 21**.
 - School hours will be **7:30-2:10 PM, daily**. Please note: this does NOT mean that students will be engaged in teacher-directed, synchronous (live) learning the entire day. However, these hours will provide clarity, predictability, and routine for students and families, whether they are hybrid or remote.
- **Classroom Schedules:** Teachers and staff are carefully designing classroom schedules to meet the *specific needs* of our students. Some of the criteria we're using include:
 - matching the developmental needs of age groups with the structure/content of the day
 - building in appropriate supports for diverse learners including students with disabilities and students who are English Learners.
 - providing a balance of synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded when possible) learning opportunities to maximize engagement
 - supporting core academic subjects as well as speciality subjects; **and**
 - embedding opportunities for recreation, socialization and social-emotional development throughout the school day/week
- **Reviewing Schedules with Families:** Once finalized, we will review weekly schedules with families prior to the start of the school year so you know what to expect, how to log on, etc. We will also have tools--such as weekly calendars--that will make it easier for you and your child to access all learning experiences.
- **[New] Before/During/After-school Programming:** At this time, district policy states that there can be NO on-site before or after-school Programming in BPS. With this in mind . . .
 - We are also working with the parent councils to create systems to allow families with similar schedules/needs to connect with and support one another.
 - Our staff rejoined on 8/25 and 8/26 for professional development and returned 9/8 for two weeks of training and preparations for our students' return to remote learning on September 21.
- **Virtual Home Visits:** your student's homeroom teacher will be in touch by the end of this week/ to schedule virtual welcome sessions and orientation. This is an opportunity for you to meet your student's teacher(s) to communicate your needs and better understand expectations, schedules and logistics for the first two weeks. We strongly encourage all Trotter families to participate. Teachers will contact families for a Thursday orientation. We have scheduled meetings to happen during the hours of 12pm and 2:30pm. These meetings are virtual and if you missed it teachers will send to all families a link to their presentations.

Many of you have reached out regarding school supplies for remote learning. We are in the process of securing materials to ensure when students are in school they do not share any supplies. Again, thank you for your patience and understanding. If you are in need of a backpack please complete the following form so that we can assure we have one ready for your child. **A date to pick up school materials for those in full remote learning is to be determined.** We are awaiting deliveries as schools nationwide are requesting supplies so your patience is appreciated. Below you will find the list of supplies according to your child's grade. In addition to the list compiled by each grade level teacher we ask for the following for every child in the hybrid learning model:

1. Water bottle
2. Mask (we will provide if loss or forgotten)
3. A Box of quart size ziploc type bags and a box of gallon size ziploc type bags (if possible).

Students Grade	Supply List for when students are Remote (these supplies stay at home)	Supply List for when students are Hybrid (these supplies stay at school)
Kindergarten 1	Ms. Varrell & Ms. Stevens List Ms. Miller's Lists	Ms. Varrell & Ms. Stevens List
Kindergarten 2	Ms. Brennan & Ms. Lupianez K2	Ms. Brennan & Ms. Lupianez K2
First Grade	First Grade Remote	First Grade Hybrid
Second Grade	Second Grade Lists	
Third Grade	Third Grade Remote	Third Grade Hybrid
Fourth Grade	Fourth Grade Lists	
Fifth Grade	Fifth Grade Remote	Fifth Grade Hybrid
Middle School	Middle School Remote	Middle School Hybrid

This year will be an amazing experience for all of us. I ask for your patience, flexibility and grace. Please do not hesitate to reach out via email if you have any questions or needs. And again, thank you for choosing the Trotter and allowing us to partner in your child's education.

Please note, I will send a separate email with all of the supply list so that the system can translate into various languages.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sarita Thomas
Principal

