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Phase Four Reopening



The past year has seen an incredible effort from teachers, students and parents as our community has navigated the social emotional, academic and community challenges of a global pandemic. On April 12th, 2021, High Tech Elementary Explorer will begin the process of reopening for in-person instruction.

Phase Four Overview

Half Day Model

In order to ensure that we can maintain social distancing and provide for daily in-person instruction, classes will be divided into morning and afternoon groups. Each group will spend three hours on campus learning with their class teacher. In addition, children will complete a short amount of learning from home (typically math and reading practice).

We believe that the half day model allows us to provide the best model for instruction and social emotional development for our students, while also keeping children safe.

In order to align with HTH schools across our Point Loma campus, our distance learning day will be on Fridays.

Distance Learning

As we understand that returning to school may be a complex decision for some families, we will continue to offer distance learning for students for the rest of the school year. We know that students have formed close bonds with their class teachers. Therefore, children who choose to remain in distance learning will continue to be taught by their class teacher. Due to the transition back to the classroom, the distance learning schedule will change. However, students will continue to be taught through a combination of synchronous learning and supporting asynchronous activities.

In order to ensure that children at home and school can see, talk and learn from each other, we will equip each classroom with enhanced audio visual technology.

Return Dates

In order to return safely, we will have a rolling reopening. This allows us to learn from each grade level, to make adjustments to our plans and to prioritize your children's safety. We have never reopened a school during a pandemic (!) and we want to do it carefully.

- April 12: Kindergarten (soft roll out), Fourth Grade, Second Grade
- April 19: First Grade and Third Grade
- April 21: Fifth Grade

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Safety

Ventilation

We have upgraded our air conditioning systems by installing MERV 13 filters throughout the school and circulating outside air. In addition, each classroom has a CO2 monitor which allows teachers and students to monitor air flow in real time. Teachers and students are encouraged to leave the classroom and learn outside at frequent intervals throughout the day.

Masks

All students and teachers must wear a well-fitted mask to school. Your child can check that their mask is fitted by jumping up and down and nodding and shaking their head! We do not allow masks with valves on campus.

Health Screenings

Each day your child will need to answer health screening questions before coming into school. Please make sure to ask your child these questions before you leave home so that you do not come to school if your child has any symptoms.

Social Distancing

All classrooms will be reconfigured so that students are 6 feet apart. We will continue to make sure that our classrooms are inviting learning spaces for students and teachers alike. Floor markers will indicate where students can stand so that they are six feet apart when moving throughout the building. We will also post reminders throughout the school to help students to give each other space.

In-Person Health Agreement

Before coming back to school, all families will need to sign an In-Person Health Agreement (you will find this in E-Collect Forms in Powerschool). This agreement outlines the safety precautions that the school is taking. By signing the form, you are agreeing to abiding by them.

Cleaning

Children and teachers will work together to keep their classes clean with classes sanitizing between each cohort. Communal areas, such as bathrooms will be cleaned between morning and afternoon groups.

Academic and Social Emotional Learning

Our half day schedule allows students to have daily, in-person instruction from their teacher. The smaller group size also allows for more personalized, targeted instruction in both academics and responsive social and emotional learning.

- Daily class meetings including academic and social emotional check-ins/activities
- Daily instruction in reading, writing and math
- A focus on joyful, active, screen-free instruction

Recess, Snack and Lunch

Each class will have time to enjoy recess in a separate area of the playground. Before going to recess, students will wash or sanitize their hands. Children will eat their snack outside and then will put their mask back on and sanitize their hands before playing. We allow students to run and play together but will ask them to separate if they are in close proximity for more than 20 seconds. In practice this means that students can play pool noodle tag, soccer, basketball, imaginative games and more.

Lunch is available to pick up from school. The morning group can take lunches home with them and the afternoon group can either pick up their lunch and enjoy a picnic in Liberty Station before school begins, or take their lunch home with them to have as a late heavy snack or dinner. At this time, all lunches are free.

Please send your child to school with a snack and a sealed, named water bottle.

Exploratory Classes (*Art, Science and Active Education*)

We believe in the power of fresh air, hands-on learning and increased access to nature. We also believe that outdoor learning is the safest way for our Exploratory teachers to meet with multiple groups of students. Therefore, all Exploratory classes will be held outside.

Each child will have one 45 minute lesson with their exploratory teacher once a week. This applies to both students who are on campus and those who are in distance learning. In addition, our Exploratory team will continue to offer a version of virtual Exploratory Bonanza (when students can opt into an art, science or AE class).

Outdoor Learning

In addition to outdoor Exploratory classes, we have purchased a large amount of equipment that can be used to create flexible outdoor learning spaces for students. Whenever possible, we are encouraging classes to go outside. This may look like teachers teaching a lesson inside the classroom and then stepping outside with their class to practice the skills that they have learned. This may involve students reading or writing outside, students jumping along a number line, counting collections of objects or using chalk to draw solutions to story problems.

Morning and Afternoon Sessions

Room numbers	Arrival time	School starts	School finishes
Rooms 1, 2, 10, 15, and 16 <i>First and second grade</i>	8:15	8:25	11:25
Rooms 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, and 13 <i>Kindergarten and fifth grade</i>	8:25	8:35	11:35
Rooms 7, 8, 9, 11, and 14 <i>Third and fourth grade</i>	8:35	8:45	11:45

Room numbers	Arrival time	School starts	School finishes
Rooms 1, 2, 10, 15, and 16 <i>First and second grade</i>	12:25	12:35	3:35
Rooms 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, and 13 <i>Kindergarten and fifth grade</i>	12:35	12:45	3:45
Rooms 7, 8, 9, 11, and 14 <i>Third and fourth grade</i>	12:45	12:55	3:55

Drop Off and Pick Up

Each class will have a designated drop off and pick up location. As students enter the building they will answer health screening questions, be given a temperature check and wash or sanitize their hands.

Playground Entrances

The class door from the playground (maximum 13 students per entrance)

- Room 1 - 5

The science room door (maximum 39 students)

- Room 6-9

Please note that families will travel through the playground in a clockwise direction, entering by the gate nearest the main entrance and leaving by the gate by the shed. Adults will need to be aware of parked cars upon leaving the playground.



Truxtun Road entrances

Classroom/dance studio door (maximum 13 students)

- Room 16

Hallway door (maximum 78 students)

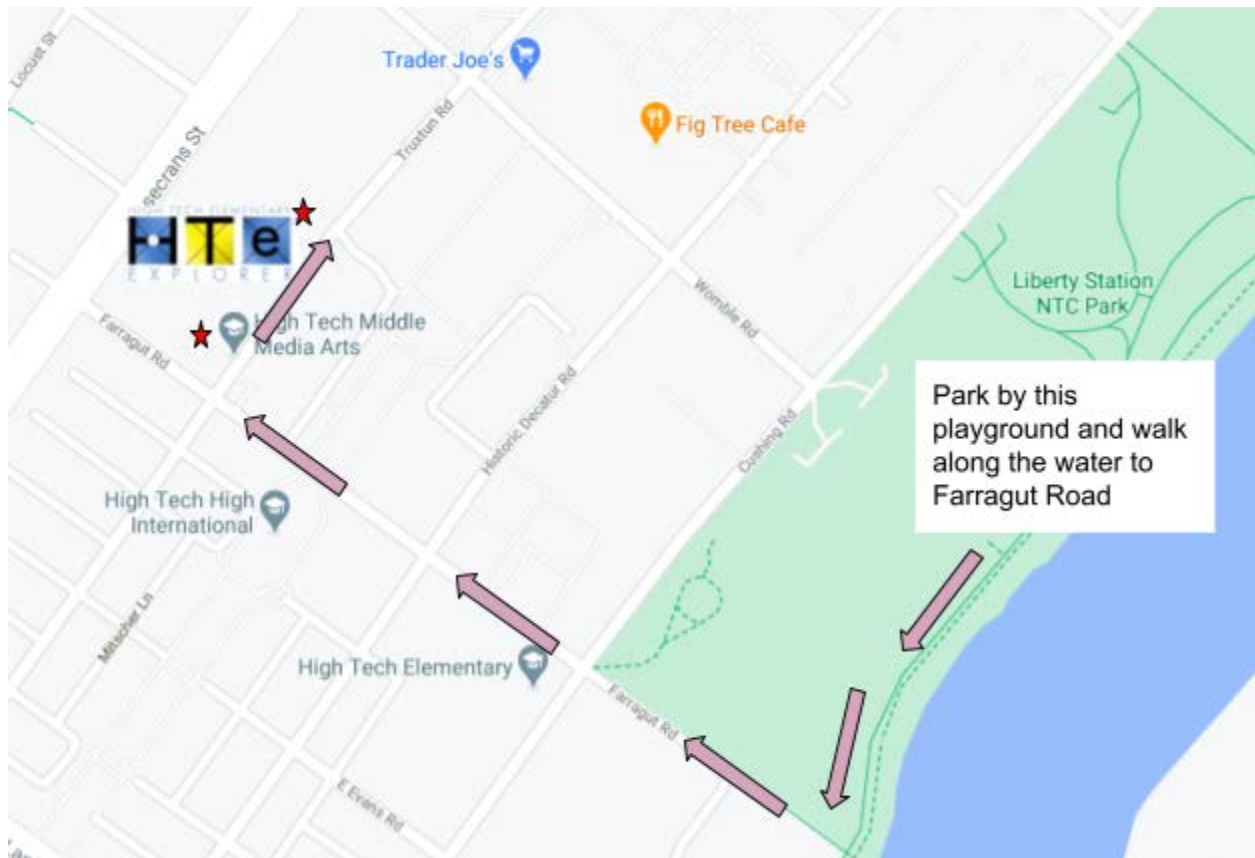
- Room 10 - 15

Students must be accompanied by an adult to their entrance door. If a child does not pass the temperature check, they can wait for up to 30 minutes and be retested. Adults will be required to wait with students and then take them home if they do not pass the temperature check/health screening.



Other safety/logistic measures

- Drop off and pick up times will be staggered.
- All adults accompanying students to the door must wear a securely fitted mask, without a valve.
- Adults are responsible for modeling social distancing for students and helping students to stay on the designated wait spots.
- In order to reduce traffic congestion, we recommend parking as far from the school as you possibly can. In addition to reducing congestion, building a walk into your day can reduce stress and increase fitness for both students and adults. It can also help students use some energy before coming into school, which will help them to follow our social distancing protocols at school. Our favorite place to park is by the playground at NTC park and then walk to school along the water! The walk takes approximately 15 minutes and is great exercise for all the family!



Health and Illness Policy

High Tech Elementary Explorer follows the guidelines laid out in the San Diego County Office of Education Decision Tree. Students/staff must stay home if they experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever (with or without chills) at or above 100 degrees fahrenheit
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Nasal congestion/runny nose
- Sore throat
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Fatigue
- New loss of taste or smell
- Headache
- Muscle/body aches
- Poor feeding/appetite

* If a child has a preexisting condition that might cause these symptoms, please ensure that we have a doctor's note on file so that we do not need to regularly send them home every time the symptom occurs.

If a child experiences any of the above symptoms, they will either need to stay home from school for 14 days or obtain a negative PCR test and return 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.

For example, a child has a runny nose on Monday. His family keeps him home from school and obtains a PCR test (available through your pediatrician or for free at the various County testing sites). The test comes back negative for Covid. The runny nose has resolved by Wednesday morning, so the student can return to school by Thursday morning.

If your child needs to be picked up from school due to these symptoms, we ask that you arrive within the hour in order to minimize potential exposure to others on campus.

In cases of Covid 19

If your child tests positive for Covid 19, they will need to stay home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

In cases of Covid 19 exposure

If your child is a known contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid 19, they will need to stay home for 14 days, or 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

Moving Between In Person and Distance Learning

In order for our teachers to design high quality learning experiences for both distance learners and in person learners, families are not able to switch between the two options. The option that you choose for your child will last until the last day of school. However, a child who has committed to in person school, will be able to join the distance learning group in the following cases:

- If a child has mild symptoms and is remaining home until they are eligible to return to school.
- If a child has been exposed to a known positive case of COVID and they are quarantining for 14 days (either on an individual or class group basis).

Please note, teachers set up assignments and structures ahead of time. It may take 24 hours for your child to be fully set up with distance learning.

IMPORTANT

The option to join the distance learning group is only available in the case of an unavoidable absence due to illness or Covid exposure. Families will not have the option to switch to distance learning if they are traveling or otherwise choosing to stay home.

Inclement Weather

Outdoor learning is an important part of our Covid safety plan and it has other important health and social emotional benefits too. However, it does require a little more preparation. Please be sure to send your child to school with layers of clothes so that they can keep warm on a cold day, and be cool on a hot day.

- A sweater
- A raincoat*
- A sun hat
- Sunscreen

It is unlikely that we will have many days of inclement weather (rain, thunderstorms, high winds) between April - June but if a heavy day of rain is forecast, **we may need to cancel Exploratory classes or even the day of in person school**. In this situation, you will be notified by Bloomz message and email by 7:15am.

* We will provide some extra raincoats for emergency situations!

Special Education

If your child qualifies for Special Education services, your child's education specialist will be reaching out to you with a personalized plan for your child. Some services will be delivered in person and others will continue to be virtual.

Supplies

Each day, your child will need:

- A warm sweater
- A named water bottle
- A mask (and a spare mask)
- A ziplock bag for your child to place their mask in while eating their snack
- A sun hat

If you would like to donate extra resources to your child's classroom, please reach out to their teacher to see what is needed. Most teachers have Amazon Wish Lists set up.