Re-Opening Harvest Collegiate High School
2020
Plan and FAQs

What principles are informing how Harvest is re-opening?

- 🍎 Keeping everyone as safe and healthy as possible, a first priority, following the best available information and recommendations, informed by the DOE Return to School info.
- 🍎 Essential Skills—focusing on the most critical “habits of mind” that will empower our students to think deeply and well for whatever the future may hold.
Towards a Beloved Community: forming Strong Relationships for Resilience and working consciously in nonviolent action towards Dr. King’s vision of a society beyond racism, violence and materialism, an inclusive brotherhood and sisterhood of “Beloved Community”

HEALTH AND SAFETY

What conditions have to be in place for schools to re-open at all?

New York City as a region must meet below the 3% level of infection rates, on a rolling seven-day average. Additionally, we are receiving three different inspections from the Department of Education (DoE) and Teacher’s Union to ensure all processes will be in place.

How is Harvest adapting our program for safety?

We had decided in May to move to a cohort model, where students would stay with the same group of students for their core classes instead of hopscotching around their daily schedule with a different group each time. Though there is less choice than we used to offer, cohorting has advantages of building strong consistent relationships while minimizing physical contacts. Teachers will also be on unified teams that can communicate about a child's strengths and progress, and be a web of support.

We have spoken to other schools that use this model and it often results in a “cozy crew” of students who know each other well and love learning together. We have hand-picked the cohorts, after soliciting input from rising seniors, to maximize friendly groups who learn well together. We are also balancing cohorts for the number of remote students as well as special needs, so as always, it may not be possible to give every person their first choice but please know we are doing this with care to promote student engagement and enjoyment.

How safe is the building?

We are reducing risk by a number of strategies including rigorous symptom screening, small class size (maximum of 12; most are six or under), complete mask wearing and maintaining social distancing.
**Ventilation**: We have 5 HVAC units that expel air through the roof. Though they are all working now, earlier in the summer one of the units was down and over the years, this system has been a concern. In late August, we our building feasibility was questioned because of a ventilation report showing a lack of exhaust fans. We subsequently received a green light from the ventilation in spectators from the DoE based on yes/no test of air flow in each room. To be sure, we hired an independent ventilation inspector who confirmed that all classrooms were operating above the standard rotation of 3 air exchanges per hour.

To further factor in our concerns about ventilation, we applied for an exception to one of the DoE program models, to use only our classrooms with windows. Dr. D has worked with custodians to make sure the windows can open safely, and have a nice air flow with screens in the class rooms.

(In addition, the second sink in the girls’ bathroom has finally been fixed!)

**What testing will be required?**

Testing is encouraged, but not required, before students or staff return to the building. DOE staff is being given priority to get tested at these 34 free sites.

**What will daily screening be like?**

Every person entering the building will need to complete this short four-question survey, to be approved by our safety agents: https://healthscreening.schools.nyc

**What will be the safety protocols when students are in the building?**

- Students will be required to wear masks covering their mouth and nose.
● Students will be with their relatively small half-cohort of about 11 other students (or fewer) and they will be in the same classroom all day. There will be protocols for moving around the building to minimize contact.
● We have received specialized protective equipment including kn95 masks, which staff wear each day. Custodians are charged with doing a deep cleaning every night. Hand sanitizer will be available at key points throughout the building.
● Visitors to the building will be limited. Conversations between parents and teachers are strongly encouraged to be conducted over the phone or virtually online, as are all PTA and larger events.
● We have a full-time Nurse on site, who is being provided with full protective equipment.

I. Essential Skills and Critical Thinking

What will I be studying and learning?

All students will have Advisory (homebase for support and family communication) and Physical Education.

9th Graders:

● Humanities (either Love and Rage about the works of James Baldwin or Outcastes, Weirdos and Losers), a double-block for two credits, one in English and one in Global History which includes half an hour of independent reading a book of choice every day
● Math, usually Algebra
● Science (Physics) and Health, in a double-block for two credits

10th Graders:

● A double-block of either Culture Clash (2 English credits) or Revolutions (2 social studies credits). Students will switch and take the other one in the spring term.
● Mathematics, usually Geometry
• Biology
• Arts Elective, either Piano or Percussion

11th graders:
• American Stories, an interdisciplinary American history and literature course
• Engineering Solutions (science)
• Algebra 2, usually
• Spanish or French

12th graders:
• AP English
• Climate Science
• Economics
• Precalculus
• Spanish or French

In addition, all students may choose to take an “optional elective” as well as a “bonus elective.”

What are the Electives?

We are offering a choice of remote electives include AP Computer Science, Art, Piano, Restorative Justice, Spanish, Musical Theater, and for upper house students, Peer Leadership.

Here are the full descriptions:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TC3HRM4Ny3zKT61296nNoDo2eQNs2ib5u3K9Zuk1wdE/edit

If you have a question about which Elective you are in, or would like to add or drop or an elective, please email Audrey@harvestcollegiate.org.

Which world languages are offered?
Spanish and French are being offered to all upper house students. Spanish is offered as an elective to lower house students.

**What about Advanced Placement (AP) or other math classes?**

We are offering three AP classes: AP Computer Science as an optional elective, AP English for all 12th grade students and AP United States History will be offered for 11th graders by spring, following a rigorous Open Honors in American Stories this fall.

If you or your child believes they should be in another math class, please email Audrey@harvestcollegiate.org.

**What does remote learning look like?**

- Google Classroom will be the backbone for the student learning experience, allowing students to engage in self-directed learning through which we aim to offer:
  - Engaging and more interactive instruction
  - Social-emotional connections for students
  - Student-centered mastery-based assessment
  - Ongoing feedback opportunities from students/parents to staff
  - Rigorous content and skills that meet grade level standards (and requirements for graduation)

- DoE Zoom (https://nycdoe.zoom.us) is our primary “live” instruction, with classes offering a ten-minute minimum live. Friday is the same schedule but some teachers will use it as “conference day” making individual appointments with students while others are choosing to continue regular class on Fridays.

**Towards a Beloved Community**
What are the norms this year?

As always, our general philosophy and expectations are outlined in our Harvest Handbook: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RbwqNgUhnKdcACS4qh_HWsLMSIqyVQW49GKU/edit

In addition:

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<tr>
<th>Norms to Support Video Meetings (from our friends at Outward Bound)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Mute your microphone when you are not speaking to avoid excessive background noise</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Use chat boxes to affirm, add-in and share thoughts while also not interrupting or distracting</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Use nonverbal signals whenever possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>● To the best of your ability, keep the video on to maintain a visual connection with one another</td>
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<tr>
<td>● EMBRACE THE AWKWARD!</td>
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And we ask that all students show their pictures on g-suite.

We are working to have students define these more deeply for ourselves in an 100% Respect Campaign, through their elected Advisory Council Representatives.

How many Harvest students are going fully remote?

Currently about ~45% of Harvest students have opted to go fully remote.

If I’m hybrid, how often would I be in school?

We have submitted an exception proposal to the DoE in which all students would be in consistently one day a week, with an additional day for students who need it on Friday (who have an IEP, are an English Language Learner, have Incompletes from spring term, etc). If you would like to come into school on Friday for help, please email Dr. D at mike@harvestcollegiate.org.

What staff will be onsite?

Teachers who have elevated health concerns can apply to the DOE for “reasonable accommodations” to teach fully remotely. We currently have 40% teachers approved by the
DoE for “reasonable accommodations, and have organized for most of them to teach remote electives so that students will see their regular teachers when they come in (in all but two cases). Our support staff and administration will be present daily.

**Can I switch between remote and blended?**

If you want to switch either way into remote or blended, you can still do so.

If you know you will be fully remote, please complete the official DoE “learning preference” survey (if you haven’t already) here: https://www.nycenet.edu/surveys/learningpreference and it would also help to email Margie, margie@harvestcollegiate.org.

If you have already opted for fully remote but prefer to come to school one day/week, please email Co-Principal Kate, kate@harvestcollegiate.org.

**Will there be Extracurricular activities?**

Yes, we will continue with Extracurricular activities, though they will be remote, as is much of social life these days. We are continuing to offer Cooking, Feminism, Model United Nations, Musical Theater, J-club for Jewish issues, the Moth for Storytelling as well as our partnerships with Hudson River Sailing. FYI all PSAL sports teams are closed citywide.

**I need a computer.**

You can come to school and sign one out for loan 9am-3pm any school day. We have chromebooks with working cameras. We also have attachable keyboards for those with a DoE Ipad. Your parent will need to sign a form, or email patty@harvestcollegiate.org.

**How about a Metrocard?**

All blended students should have received a Metrocard. If you haven’t yet, please ask Justin or magda@harvestcollegiate.org and we will get you one.

**What about outdoor alternatives?**

We are organizing a parent committee to form voluntary ‘pods’ (small groups) to meet in neighborhoods.
We have an approved street closure on 12th Street between Fifth and Sixth Ave, though we are being asked to manage all aspects of it including directing traffic, so will need parent volunteers to make that happen. Please email margie@harvestcollegiate.org if that might be possible.

We are planning a 9th grade Outdoor Orientation on October 23rd.

**How can I get involved?**

We welcome your participation! Upcoming meetings include:

School Leadership Team (SLT), Tuesday, November 3rd.

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), Thursday, November 12th 6:00-7:00

You can always contact our wonderful Parent Coordinator Margie at margie@harvestcollegiate.org.