

Greetings Walker Families,

7/6/20

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! This year will be Walker's "Year of the Open-Minded." Our IB learners will lead the charge for embracing unity, hope and change on our campus, in our community and with global contexts in mind. Our theme this year aligns closely with the [IB Learner Profile Traits](#) and aims to create a safe learning environment in which students can excel academically, socially and emotionally.

We are coming into the new school year in an era that is unprecedented and with many unknowns. It is our hope to provide our students and families with an environment that provides a sense of security and safety, along with the needed supports in the area of social and emotional development. We will work diligently to support students as they transition back into an academic routine.

The basis of further growth for our Wolves depends on the support of all stakeholders. That said, please check out the following links that will begin to open the lines of communication between parents and teachers/staff.

[Walker's Website](#)

[MySpot Parent Portal](#): Offline until new year begins.

[Hillsborough County Schools Website](#)

[Middle School Education Website](#)

[Middle School Progression Plan](#)

[Transportation Services](#)

[IB Middle Years Programme](#)

Summary of Options Available for Walker Students - Semester 1 of the 2020-21 Year

On 7/1, you received an email from Hillsborough School News in which Superintendent Davis shared options for our 20-21 reopening. I would like to share some insight into each option as it pertains to Walker, so you may make an informed decision for your family when completing your [Declaration of Intent](#).

Here is a link to the district's FAQs regarding the 3 options: [20-21 Reopening Frequently Asked Questions](#) Please be aware, the option you choose will be an 18-week (1 semester) commitment. Also, in these FAQs, there is information regarding magnet status. **The deadline to complete the [Declaration of Intent](#) is Friday, 7/17. If you make no selection by this date, the default selection is Option A.**

Option A - Full-time Return to School

Students will report to their assigned school full-time and return to traditional face-to-face instruction with increased health and safety measures in place to include the following:

- ✓ Each student will be issued 3, reusable face masks
- ✓ Increased cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- ✓ Increased number of hand sanitation stations at entrances and common areas
- ✓ Increased social distancing where possible
- ✓ Controlled movement where possible
- ✓ Limited mass gatherings and field trips

Walker Info: Walker will align with the district's expectations for safety and sanitation.

Additionally, we are revamping our Nurse's Station/Clinic with increased space and supplies. We are awaiting district recommendations for more specifics in our clinic area. We do strongly suggest wearing masks.

Option B - Full-time School-Based eLearning

Please view this short [eLearning informational video](#) from our superintendent, outlining the eLearning model for the 20-21 school year.

Walker Info: Below are the things to know about Walker's eLearning program in addition to the district information in the video.

- ✓ This option allows your student to remain enrolled at Walker and be served by Walker staff.
- ✓ Our IB philosophies & curriculum will be embedded into eLearning.
- ✓ eLearning will consist of rigorous coursework that aligns with state and IB standards.
- ✓ Scheduled virtual meeting times will be required.
- ✓ The structure of and teachers in our eLearning department at Walker will depend on which students and the number of students who select this option.

Option C: Hillsborough Virtual K-12

Click [HERE](#) to view an informational video on Hillsborough Virtual School. Also, here is the district's [20-21 Reopening Frequently Asked Questions](#) including information on magnet status.

Walker Info: If you enroll in this option, your student becomes a student at Hillsborough Virtual School for the first semester of the 20-21 school year. All courses as well as academic and social/emotional supports will be provided by Hillsborough Virtual School. You would contact Hillsborough Virtual School with any and all questions relating to your student's academic and social/emotional needs.

As a reminder, school begins on Monday, August 10th. Our Open House is scheduled for Friday, August 7th - more specific information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. For now, campuses still remain closed to the public, but we can be reached at: 813-631-4726 Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4 pm. Walker faculty and staff are eager to partner with our families to help students explore their highest heights!

See you soon & welcome (back) to Wolves Nation!

Heather Holloway, Principal
Follow us on Twitter at @WalkerMiddleIB