

Dear Hill Families,

I hope this finds you and your families doing well as we approach the holiday season and the start of a new year that I hope will bring all of us some much needed joy. I am writing today to communicate the plan for a return to in-person learning at Hill Campus of Arts & Sciences. In this letter, I will explain the schedule we will use for our return and the impact on both students who are remote and in-person. First, let me start by saying that all secondary schools across DPS will approach return differently because of their unique student population, programming and school size. Hill is one of the largest traditional middle schools in DPS and we will return in a way that keeps everyone safe while accelerating the learning of all students.

It is important to note that our return will be based on the health conditions at the time of return. [Here is the guidance](#) that will be used in DPS and in other metro districts to determine the level of in-person schooling students will participate in based on the Covid-19 dial level.

### ***School Schedule:***

At Hill, we will provide four to five days of live instruction for all students regardless of the setting of remote or in-person. Fridays will be used as assessment and make-up days. ***Students may be released earlier to work independently based on teacher discretion only on Fridays. All students are expected to attend all five days.*** Students will remain with their same teachers this next semester with the exception of sixth grade students who will change their semester electives, students moving from science to social studies and vice versa. ***All students who have selected to be in-person will be cohorted into A and B cohorts. This information will be shared in January. Cohort A will attend school on Monday/ Tuesday and cohort B will attend on Wednesday/Thursday. Friday will be a remote day for all students.*** All in-person classes will have up to 17 students in each class. Families who selected in-person will be the only families to receive cohort information. Students in the center-based MI classroom will attend classes five days per week, like we did when we were previously in-person. Use [this calendar](#) to help you know what days your student will start in-person for their cohort and grade.

Our school leadership team, which is made of school leaders and teachers, decided to use the cohort model because it allows us to keep class sizes small, again no more than 17 in a class and provides us the chance to assess our school's readiness to welcome all in-person students at the same time. Our readiness indicators are in the areas of **School Culture of Safety, Special Populations Success, and Teacher Readiness**. When we are successful in all indicators and health data is safe, we will welcome all in-person students 5 days a week and transition from the hybrid cohort model.

**School Safety:**

As you can imagine, all staff and students being healthy is top priority for me. As such, I wanted to share several practices that we will be shifting for in-person schooling to adhere to the safety guidelines. Below are several items for families to review with their student if you are returning to in-person learning:

- Hill's DPS 5 Safety Plan - [Here](#)
- Safety Protocols SlideShow - [Here](#)
- Hill's Safety Video - [Here](#)
- Return One Pager (Arrival & Dismissal) - [Here](#)

In this plan, we are prioritizing our students having access to learning each day. And to support that goal, it is equally important to prioritize teacher planning time. In order to provide teachers time to plan and support students in this model, Hill will host an asynchronous day each month for the remainder of the school year. These dates will be added to the school calendar [here](#).

As we approach the new year, it is my goal to ensure that our students are supported in-person and that both our families and staff know that our campus is a safe place for all. ***Lastly, I know this is a ton to process and as always, I will be hosting a Q&A to support families who are returning in-person in January. Stay tuned for that date announcement when we return.***

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year,

*David W. Adams*

David W. Adams,  
Principal