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Dear Returning and New NHSP Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We are just a few weeks away from the start of school – Tuesday, Sept. 1. It’s hard to believe the summer is almost over. Preparations are underway for launching the new school year with our NHSP Remote Learning 2.0, and we are excited to come together to begin the learning and fun, wherever we are.

### **Latest COVID-19 Update**

With LA County on the watchlist, we remain under orders to remain closed to campus instruction until we are 14 days off the watchlist based on case rate, hospitalization rate, and other factors.

On the subject of waivers, we have received notification through the LADPH and PPHD that due to the most current data, they will not be approving any waivers for schools for the time being. As of August 5, 2020, PPDH released this statement:

*“The City of Pasadena Department of Public Health will adhere to new guidance from the California Department of Public Health, which recommends that Counties with case rates of COVID-19 at or above 200 cases per 100,000 residents do not extend waivers for the reopening of classroom instruction for students in grades TK- 6.”*

We continue to monitor developments on a daily basis as they pertain to the reopening of schools and the latest data that affects our county and state and will update our families as to any changes or new information.

### **Faculty Announcement**

Upon completion of her maternity leave this summer, Ms. Degraffinreid decided to remain home with her child and not to return this Fall as the first grade teacher. We appreciate her contribution to the school and wish her well.

After conducting a search process, we are delighted to welcome Ms. Nergess Alemzay as the new First Grade Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Alemzay comes to New Horizon with over four years experience including the teaching of Kindergarten and First Grade. She completed her Bachelor’s in Communication Studies and coursework for her Single Subject Credential program through Cal State Long Beach and is enrolled in a Master’s degree program at USC.

In addition to regular classroom experience, Ms. Alemzay has developed proficiency in teaching through remote learning with extensive experience with various online tools. From her references, she is described as “creative, organized, and very professional,” and “she genuinely cares about her students and is great with first graders.” In her demo lesson, we observed her infectious enthusiasm, bright personality, and effective engagement strategies and could easily envision her creating a safe and happy learning environment for our first grade class.

### **Getting Ready for 2020-2021 School Year**

This time around we have had more time for planning and adjusting our remote learning program, and we are able to provide more guidance to families in advance. This email provides important information for getting everyone ready for school over the next few weeks.

### **New Learning Management Platform - Schoology**

After careful consideration, the administration decided to adopt a new learning management platform that integrates our RenWeb data and gives us a more user-friendly environment for BOTH lower school and middle school students and families. This will replace LMS for middle school and Class Dojo for lower school. Offering families one platform should make it easier in terms of fostering consistency throughout the school – and it can be adapted for various age groups.

During the 2-week Faculty Orientation (Aug. 18-21/24-28), faculty and staff will be receiving training, and we are carving out time for teachers to prepare their classroom portals in preparation for the start of school. We hope to be ready by the first week of September with this new platform.

### New Remote Learning 2.0 Features

We will be reviewing all the features of the program in the upcoming orientation meetings. Here are some of the new additions to the program:

Makerspace period (K-4)

Project Kits (all grade levels)

Additional time for core subjects including Islamic Studies, Arabic, and Qur’an (all grade levels)

Arabic Teacher’s Assistant (Grades 1-4)

Small groups AND whole classroom groupings

LS Morning Meetings and MS Advisory – additional time for social-emotional activities and check-ins

Live sessions with specialists – PE, Garden, Art

### Mandatory Parent and Student Orientations via Zoom (8/25, 8/26, 8/27)

Families are required to attend Mandatory Parent Orientations via Zoom **during the last week of August** to learn about schedules, routines, and remote learning expectations for students and parents. Teachers and administrators will lead these orientations. **Please note the dates/times for your child’s grade level.**

TUESDAY, 8/25		WEDNESDAY, 8/26		THURSDAY, 8/27		FRIDAY, 8/28
PARENT ORIENTATIONS		PARENT ORIENTATIONS		STUDENT ORIENTATIONS		CURBSIDE PICK-UP FOR STUDENT TEXTS/ WORKBOOKS/ TECHNOLOGY /PROJECT KITS
1:00 – 2:00	PK	12:00-1:30	Grades 3 & 4	10 – 11:30	Grade 5	8:30 – 9:00 PK & K
2:30 – 4:00	K	2:00-3:30	Grade 5	12:00 – 1:30	Grades 6-8	9:00-9:30 GRADES 1 & 2
4:30 – 6:00	Grade 1 & 2	4:00 – 5:30	Grades 6-8	2:00 – 3:30	Review Orientation Session* – Elementary	9:30-10:00 GRADES 3 & 4
				4:00-5:30	Review Orientation Session* – Middle School	10:00-10:30 GRADES 5 & 6
						10:30-11:00 GRADES 7 & 8
						1:00-2:00 LATE PICK-UP OPTION

*\*If you are unable to attend the grade-level specific meetings, please join the Review Session for your child’s school group. These meetings will not have teachers in attendance, only administration, and may not cover specific details for your child’s grade level.*

**Curbside Pick-up @ Middle School Driveway – Friday, Aug. 28**

Please note the **schedule in the chart above** for Friday, Aug. 28 for pick-up for all levels of **student texts, workbooks, technology, and project kits**. Please note: **A family may come to their youngest child's pick-up time, and all their other children's materials and devices will be available as well.**

### Meet-Your-Teacher Day – Mon., Aug. 31

Your child can join his/her grade level and start making connections with teachers and fellow classmates on the day before school – **Mon., Aug. 31**. Here is the schedule for individual grade-level sessions (Zoom links will be sent out the week prior):

Time	Groups			
9:00-9:45	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 5	Grade 7
9:45-10:30	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 6	Grade 8
10:30-11:15	PK	K		

### School Supplies

Children look forward to getting their school supplies each year. This year is no different. We have, however, an option to make it easier. Families can purchase their children's grade level school supplies through pre-packaged supply kits from Bright SchoolKitz. If you click on this [LINK](#), and plug in "New Horizon," you will see your child's supply kits. These kits can also be used by your student when we come back to campus.

Supplies will typically take 1-2 weeks to get delivered your home (barring any delays due to hurricanes, etc.). Families can also choose to purchase their own supplies through other vendors.

You can see your child's Supply Lists by going to the RenWeb Family Portal or you can see them through <https://schoolkitz.com>.

### Technology Needs

Getting ready with the appropriate technology and wifi connection is also critical for the online classes during remote learning.

This year, with the assistance of a grant, the school is able to provide (on loan) 1:1 technology devices for students in K-4. These devices will have the necessary apps and bookmarks to make the remote learning process easier. K-2 will receive iPads while third and fourth graders will receive chromebooks.

Middle school students may request a device if they do not have their own. (see below for how to do so).

We ask that **ALL FAMILIES** take this [Tech Survey](#) by **Friday, August 21** to let us know information regarding wifi connections and technology needs as a way of determining full access to online learning for all of our students. It is also the place for middle school families to request a device, if needed.

A good set of headphones with a microphone is strongly recommended for grades 3-8 and can be purchased as an add-on to the Bright SchoolKidz kit. Headphones for PK-2 are optional and may also be purchased through Bright SchoolKidz.

Some type of printer is recommended but not required.

### Schedules

Class schedules will be available the week of August 24. Start and end times may vary by grade level, however, supervision for students in K-8 (not available for all recess and lunch breaks) is available from about 8:45 am to 3:30 pm every day with either required class time or optional supervised learning or other activities. Fridays are shorter days with joint Jum'a prayer as the last activity of the day.

### **Setting Up Routines**

An important part of preparing for going back to school, whether on-campus or online, is beginning to set up routines. In the week before school starts, shifting to a new bedtime and wake-up time will be helpful. It may take a week or so for students to get back to a school routine, and it will definitely make the first week of school a bit easier.

### **Uniforms?**

We have decided that students are NOT required to wear school uniforms in the remote learning environment. However, we do expect that students get ready for school by changing into regular clothes (and not pajamas, for example). On School Spirit Days (last Friday of every month), students will need to wear their school t-shirt. We will be sending home a survey form in the coming weeks for families to indicate t-shirts they would like to purchase, and they will be made available at our second Curbside Pick-up on Friday, Sept. 11.

### **Summer Reading**

It's hard to believe summer is almost over! In June, we sent out LS summer reading booklets and MS summer reading list and guidelines (see attached or go to Family Portal). Now is the time to make sure that your student completes this requirement. Teachers will be collecting the K-4 reading packets through curbside pick-up on **Friday, Sept. 11**. For grades 5-8, students can submit their work electronically to their English teacher also by Friday, Sept. 11. Teachers will provide more details in the first week of school.

New students enrolled after July will have an alternative assignment to complete in the first quarter.

A new school year is just around the corner, and the opportunities for learning and growth will abound, whether we are on-campus or online. We look forward to "seeing" you all very soon, Insha'Allah. We plan to send 1-2 more updates prior to the start of school, so please take the time to read through these emails.

May God grant us all a happy and successful new school year!

In peace,



Amira Al-Sarraf, M.S.Ed.  
Head of School