

Report to the Town of Hampton
Hampton Elementary School
2020-2021

Post lock down year

As we all remember in March, 2020, we closed our school and went to virtual learning for the rest of the academic year ending in June 2020. This required our teachers, our very young students, and parents to completely rethink how to teach, how to learn, and how to parent in order to ensure that their child kept learning and being connected with their friends - even without being “with” their friends. This was a very, very difficult time for all in the HES community.

Knowing how difficult the closing of HES was for those four months, we looked forward to the 2020-2021 academic year. We realized that a detailed plan to reopen HES was required and that all members of our community needed to be part of the planning effort. A major communication effort would be required so everyone would know what the reopening plan was. An implementation plan would be required when the time came to reopen HES’s front doors and welcome our students back into their classrooms.

The Reopening Discussion Group met from the time of the closing of HES until the reopening the last week of August 2020. The discussion group then met three times after HES reopened to review and adjust the plan as it was playing out during the year.

As you all remember, each household received in the mail the comprehensive HES Reopening Plan. The plan called for the removal of classroom walls to allow for the 6’ separation of each student. The plan rerouted the traffic pattern to allow parents to transport their students to and from school. At the same time, all of our students on our buses were to remain 6’ apart.

The plan required everyone to wear face masks from the time they got on our buses each morning, until they got off the buses each

afternoon. Teams were created that kept students separated from other Teams. Students were eating their breakfasts, snacks, and lunches in their classrooms. The school ventilation system was running 24/7 and the school was cleaned and then sanitized each evening.

The real “Bang for the Buck” was realized in June 2021 when all of the work and planning and implementation of the reopening plan paid off. We realized our goal:

Every Student, Every Day, for 183 Days

The Connecticut State Department of Education reported in July 2020 that only 3.8% of all Connecticut schools were able to remain open everyday.

HES accomplished our goal because we all made that reopening plan work!

Respectfully submitted:
Dr. Frank Olah, Superintendent