

Dear Harmony Staff/Families,

When the COVID-19 pandemic first began in our state last spring, we promised our Harmony community that our response to the pandemic would always be focused on keeping our entire Harmony community safe, and our students focused on learning. As a school system that places a heavy emphasis on science and math, we also promised that all of our decisions would be based on the best science and data available.

Today, we wanted to share with you an important update about the reopening of your child’s school. Just as importantly, though, we wanted to share with you more detailed information about how that determination was made and what specific steps toward reopening will happen next.

From the beginning of the pandemic, Harmony has looked at a specific group of informed and reliable data sources to determine the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic in our local community. These sources are the Harvard University Data Center, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Department of State Health Services, our city and county health agencies, and information from our neighboring school systems.

From this data, Harmony Public Schools has developed a four-stage reopening plan for its 58 campuses across Texas that allows the specific COVID-19 conditions in each community to determine each school’s individual reopening plan.

Those stages are:

	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
Instructional Delivery	Distance Learning	Mostly distance learning with limited in-person students in a learning center setting	In-Person instruction with targeted groups and distance learning option for students want to stay home	In-Person instruction with distance learning option for students want to stay home
School Operations		Social distancing, Masks and other measures described in the Harmony Playbook	Social distancing, Masks and other measures described in the Harmony Playbook	Social distancing, Masks and other measures described in the Harmony Playbook
Food Services	Curbside Only	Curbside for online and Pre-packaged lunch in the classrooms for students in learning center	Curbside for online and Pre-packaged lunch in the classrooms for onsite students	Curbside for online and Pre-packaged lunch in the classrooms for onsite students
Staff	Only essential staff reports to Building	Essential staff and supervising staff in the classrooms	All staff returns	All staff

Our campus is currently at Stage 1 currently, and will begin Stage 2 on September 14, 2020.

In short, Stage 2 means campuses must remain closed for both students and staff for the time being due to a high presence of COVID-19 in our community; however, it may be safe to host a limited number of students in Harmony Learning Centers. In these Learning Centers, students would complete their daily classwork remotely from a Harmony facility in a supervised, day-long “study hall”-like setting. Students and staff members would be required to follow all safety protocols outlined in the Harmony Public Schools Back to School Playbook, as well as any others deemed necessary for safe, productive learning.

In the next stage, Stage 3, we will open campuses for specific groups of high-need students, such as SPED, ELL, and students in the primary grades.

Harmony Learning Center services will only be provided to the students who opted into in-person learning during the survey. During the Harmony Learning Center Services, students will be able to work on their daily classwork from 8 am to 3 pm every weekday. Harmony Learning Center services will be offered in phases according to below schedule:

Phase 1- September 14: PreK-2 Grade Levels

Phase 2- September 21: All Grade Levels

Our ultimate goal is to reopen our campus for all students who opted into in-person learning (Stage 4) as soon as conditions are favorable. Our goal for Stage 4 is October 13, 2020 dependent on local COVID-19 conditions and TEA guidelines.

Thank you for your support during these unprecedented times, and for helping keep our students safe and focused on learning.

We will continue to keep you updated as new developments take place.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sepesy