



Harambee Institute of Science & Technology Charter School

Gregory G. Shannon, CEO

July 31, 2020

Dear Harambee Parents and Guardians,

At our last parent meeting in July, my team and I shared with you a plan to open our school for the 2020-2021 school year on a hybrid schedule. As I communicated to you at that time, this process and our decisions are fluid and are subject to change based on the conditions of COVID-19 and other factors in our city and in the surrounding area. After careful consideration, **we have revised our 2020-2021 school opening plan and decided to open with all students participating in virtual learning through the first marking period.** Additionally, we have amended our start date from Monday, August 24 to **Wednesday, September 2, 2020. This will be the start date for all K-8 Harambee students.** Before we begin our second marking period on November 2, we will re-evaluate the COVID-19 conditions with guidance from the Philadelphia Department of Health and determine if we can move to our hybrid schedule.

With that said, we will hold parent orientation on Wednesday, August 12 (for new parents and families only) and Thursday, August 13, 2020 (for returning parents and families). Both meetings will be held on Zoom and will begin promptly at 6:00 pm. Please see the attached flyer for more details. During the 2020-2021 Parent orientation, you will receive details about the upcoming school year, inclusive of your child's schedule, our instructional plan, and the student support services that will be offered. You will also receive more information about Chromebook distribution and the technology supports that our staff will provide families.

Attached you will find our updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document based on the questions we have received from you to date. I realize that you may have additional questions that are not included in the FAQs and ask that you submit these through our on-line portal on our website at www.histcs.org. Please submit all questions no later than the close of business Monday, August 10, 2020, so we can be sure to address them during our parent orientation.

On August 7, 2020, all families will receive via email, a Back to School packet with important information and forms to be completed for the school year. As always, we will continue to communicate with you through written communication, email, Class Dojo, our website, and robocalls.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that our school year will look very different. Please know that my administrative team and I remain fully committed to ensuring our students receive a high-quality education despite the current conditions. I would like to reaffirm our commitment to you and our children to ensure they continue to get the world-class education they so richly deserve.

Sincerely,


Gregory G. Shannon
Chief Executive Officer

Education for Self-reliance