

The New Normal

As Heritage experiments with hybrid learning, we enter a new age of normalcy both in school and out.

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After five months in quarantine, school is now back in session, but with a few new updates. As Fla. begins to reopen, with about 650,000 cases as of Sept. 9, Heritage offers two forms of schooling: in-person and distance learning. In order to keep those on campus safe, Dr. Laurie enacted a series of measures visible throughout the daily routine.

Before class

Before coming on campus each day, students must get their temperatures checked. If the thermometer reads at or above 100.4°F after two checks, the student must test negative for COVID-19 before coming back to campus. Students will have the option to get tested on campus or through their own healthcare provider.

"I'm encouraging, for the convenience factor, to test here on campus," Dr. Laurie said. "We have a good relationship that we created with the medical doctor who is interpreting the tests and a private testing clinic who will be really expeditious and getting the results back; we're thinking 48 to 72 hours."

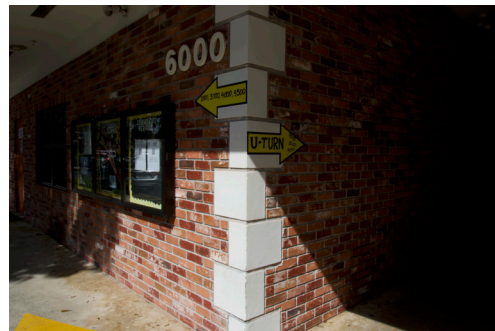
In class

While on campus, everyone must wear a mask. Teachers assigned in-person students seats the first day of class, enforcing as much spacing as possible between students. In the classroom, administration placed clear plexiglass separating teachers' desks from students. Teachers are encouraged to teach from their desk, but plexiglass also surrounds a podium in front of the class as well.

"School is obviously different because of the masks, but it's also different because there are less students here," senior Serena Saul said. "I definitely miss seeing everybody and have a connection with the teachers."



THIS WAY: Security guard Mr. Howard directs traffic out of Lot 3 towards Broward Blvd after school.

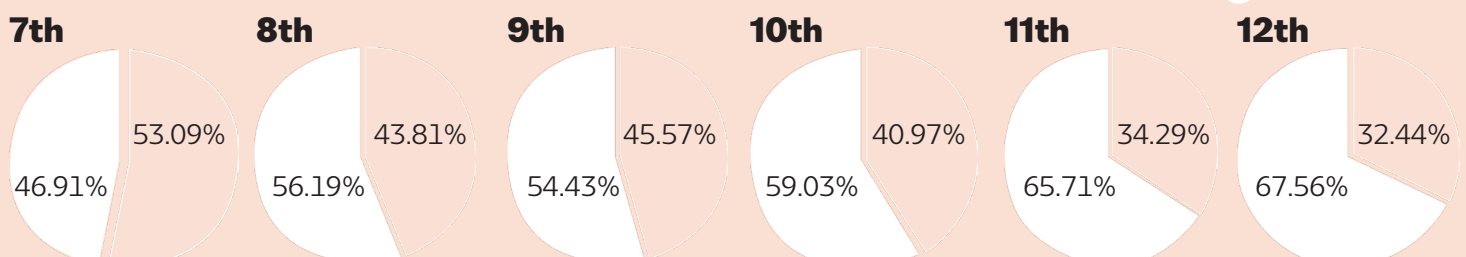


NEW ROADS: To maintain social distancing, administration placed yellow arrows pointing students where to walk in the new one-way traffic system.



HYBRID: In their AP Government class, seniors Alyan Zafar and Serena Saul monitor teacher Dr. Jonathan Pedrone's computer screen for questions and comments from distance learners as Dr. Pedrone teaches from the front of this room.

Hybrid Distribution



In between class

Due to the concentration of people walking to classes, administration designed a one-way traffic plan and staggered release times during the 10 minutes between each period. Teachers explained the passing map to in-person students their first day back.

Students going the farthest leave first, with the second half leaving after. Those travelling east to west walk along the back of the football bleachers and in front of the canal. West to east walkers follow the path marked in front of the campus along Broward Blvd.

"I miss being able to walk wherever and talk to people I know and see around campus," senior Rachel McDonald said. "I definitely feel safe, though, because so many precautions have been put in place to ensure that."

Between classes, teachers sanitize the classroom using a nontoxic antiviral solution. Students, upon arrival, can then wipe the desks off with one of the seven microfiber towels they received on the first day of school.

Lunch

Administration decided to create grab-and-go lunches that accept ID scans only to accommodate the influx of students buying lunch. Stations with different options are available throughout campus. The full breakdown of lunch options is on the walking map.

Keeping into account lunch not only requires students to take off their masks but also breeds an environment the exact opposite of social distancing, administration purchased extra tables and placed stickers guiding students as to where to sit. Students may sit in the gymeteria (100 people max), behind the 9000, on the field adjacent to the 3000 and next to the softball field.

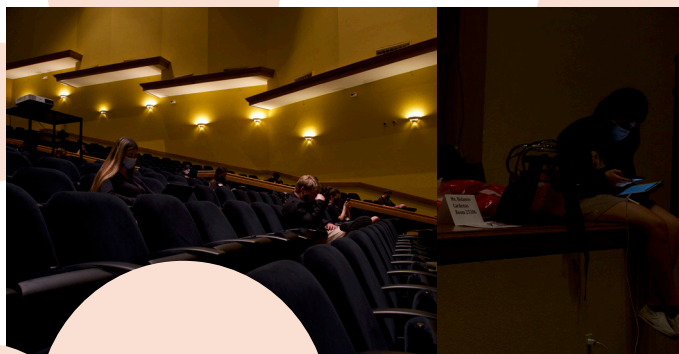
Seniors still may go off campus.



FLOORED: Dr. Laurie spent over one hundred thousand dollars on picnic tables for lunch. With the smiley face stickers and four-person limited seating, administration hopes this purchase will avert spread during lunchtime.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

While waiting for a permit to enter the new 25000 building, senior high students attended their English classes virtually from the theater.



OUR WAY: Senior follows the one-way traffic through the 3000 during his independent. All students coming from the west side of campus to the 2000, 2500, 3000, 4000 or 4500 buildings must go through the path north of the canal to get to their class.

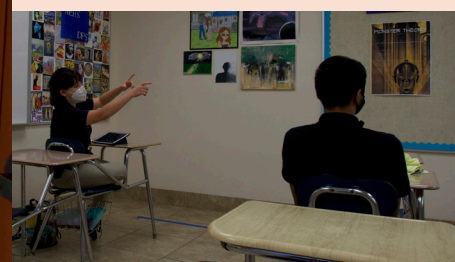




FRONT OF THE LINE: Head of Guidance, Mrs. Bikoundou, waves students through the front of the school, a new pathway that opened to students safely this year for one-way traffic. Due to the one-way traffic and two-part dismissal, the class change time increased by three minutes.



NEW HOME: After spending the majority of her time at Heritage in room 9114, publications advisor Ms. Diana Adams relocated to the 2500 building. Now in room 25310, Ms. Adams sorts through the photos and awards from her previous staffs.



LET'S DISCUSS: Senior Irene Newman discusses her "Invisible Cities" project with her AP English Literature class. To include distance learners, she joined the google meet from class and shared her screen.

Extracurriculars

After an online club fair, clubs now host all meetings online, whether before or after school or during lunch. The full list of the 86 clubs and links to their meetings is on the ICC portal page.

The Florida High School Athletic Association announced sports will continue, but differently than in the past. Football will play eight games, two of which will be at home. However, to keep the campus as safe as possible, only players' families may attend the games. In order for an athlete to be allowed on the team, he or she must take classes virtually for the entirety of the season.

For a more comprehensive guide, check out the portal page for videos and explanations for each aspect of the school's reopening and the Q+A Online Editor-in-Chief Kayla Rubenstein and Print Editor-in-Chief Bella Ramirez hosted with Dr. Laurie and Mrs. Blum, accessible on iPatriotPost.com.



ASSIGNED SEATS: Although classes are using an alphabetical snake method for seating, the library assigns seats based on whether or not the student needs a computer. Previously a busy social hotspot of the school, the library now rarely holds more than 15 people after school.



Q&A: 2021 Vision

Senior Angelin Mathew discusses experiencing her senior year through distance learning.



HOOKED UP: Senior Angelin Mathews uses two devices to keep up with her work. Enrolled in AP and Honors courses, Mathews keeps track of assignments with a whiteboard located to her left. (Photo submitted/Angelin Mathew)

The Patriot Post: What's it like for extracurriculars, especially as the president of a predominantly discussion-based club, English Honor Society (EHS)?

Mathew: For EHS, Kelly, Emilin, and I had several brainstorming officer meetings to come up with ways to make people feel comfortable and to choose a theme for the year. We ended up focusing on using literature as a medium to combat cultural misunderstandings and intolerance. I was a little worried people may not feel as comfortable participating in the discussions virtually but a lot of members contributed new perspectives and even shared personal stories in the first two meetings. I have to say I am always mind blown during EHS meetings and going virtual hasn't changed that.

The Patriot Post: And working with science research?

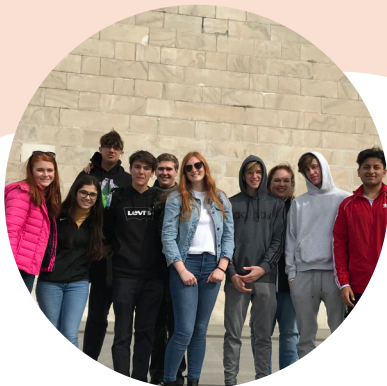
Mathew: Lab feels like a second home and research is a family. Mrs. Joykuty, Mr. Kepa, and Dr. Sood are amazing mentors who are so dedicated to helping us navigate this weird time. The older students and I also started making a Google Drive folder with papers that could be inspirational for younger students. I really miss designing experiments in lab but it's also an opportunity for us to get out of our comfort zone.

The Patriot Post: Do you wish you were on campus, at school?

Mathew: Part of me wishes I was back on campus because I really miss the interactions but the idea of getting someone else or their loved one sick reminds me that every sacrifice is valuable.

ONE LAST YEAR:

Although seniors are experiencing a different final year than anticipated, senior advisors and administration celebrated a postponed step-up day with jeans allowed Sept. 21.

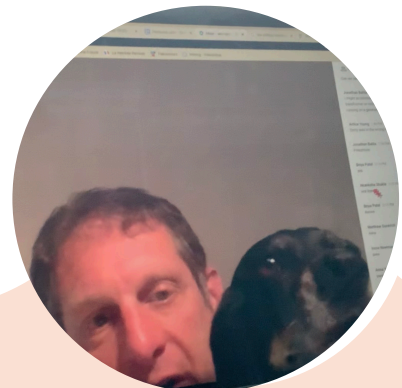


March 11- Students from all field trips are sent back to Heritage by the next day.

March 19- Trial for Distance Learning Plan commences.

March 13- School closure from March 16-30 issued.

March 30- Distance learning begins with live sessions only on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Q&A: JH Online Perspective

Eighth grader Krystal Molina discusses experiencing junior high through distance learning.

The Patriot Post: What's it like being at home, especially as an 8th grader?

Krystal: I think being home as an eighth grader is a better experience during the COVID-19 pandemic because the school has made it so worry free being an online learner. They assure us that we get the same experience as we would at school. The technology is amazing and makes it like we are in class. I think it is less stressful because we do not have to follow all the safety precautions that in person learners have to. I get to spend more time with my family and enjoy online more than in person.

The Patriot Post: Do you feel like you're missing anything being at home?

Krystal: The only thing I feel I'm really missing is my friends.

The Patriot Post: How does it feel to have club meetings online? How about cheer?

Krystal: Cheer is one of the activities that got to stay but because of COVID precautions, my parents felt like it would be safer if I stayed home.

The Patriot Post: Do you anticipate going back second quarter? If not, when/why?

Krystal: It really all depends on how the cases are going.



LINKED IN: Eighth grader Krystal Molina takes classes from her living room. With a yoga ball instead a chair, Molina logs onto Google Classroom with her laptop while working on her iPad.



Aug. 7-
First day of 2020-
2021 school year is
moved to Aug. 31

Aug. 20- First two
weeks of school are
announced as online
for Senior High.



Aug. 31- First day of school.

Sept. 14- First day of hybrid
school for senior high.

