



**HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL WEST**  
HAMILTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2720 SOUTH CLINTON AVENUE  
HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY 08610-5098  
609-631-4168 · FAX 609-631-4137

**Principal**  
Brian E. Smith

**Vice Principals**  
Erin Flanagan  
Amanda Wegman  
Chuck Zalescik

**Athletic Director**  
John Costantino

**October 19, 2023**

Dear Hamilton West Community

I'd like to take a moment to address an important change in our school's policy regarding lunchtime activities. As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of our students, we have decided that all students will need to remain inside the school building and eat in the cafeteria during lunch periods, starting tomorrow, Friday, October 20th . We believe that this change will help create a safer and more supervised environment for all students during this time. If a student leaves during lunch, they will not be permitted to return and will be marked absent and all subsequent classes will be counted for a cut for the remainder of the day. Also, I would like to remind everyone that any student ordering food, DoorDash or otherwise that opens an unsecured door will be suspended for 9 days for breaching security and endangering the safety of others per school policy.

This decision was made after careful consideration of several factors, including:

- **Safety**: The supervision of students is more manageable within the school building, where our staff can ensure a safer environment and address any potential issues quickly.
- **Weather Conditions**: During extreme weather conditions, it can be uncomfortable or unsafe for students to be outside. By keeping everyone inside, we can better protect our students from adverse weather conditions.
- **Efficient Use of Time**: Staying inside during lunch will allow students to use their time more efficiently. They will have access to the cafeteria, library, and other designated areas where they can work on assignments, read, or engage in other productive activities.
- **Reduced Distractions**: Remaining inside the school building will help minimize distractions during lunch, ensuring that students can focus on eating and other constructive activities.

We want to assure you that this decision has been made with the best interests of our students in mind, and we will continue to monitor and evaluate the policy's effectiveness.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we work to maintain a safe and conducive learning environment for all our students. We believe that this policy will contribute to a better overall school experience for our children. Thank you for your cooperation and partnership in ensuring the well-being of our students.

Respectfully,

Brian E. Smith  
Principal  
Hamilton West  
[bsmith@htsdnj.org](mailto:bsmith@htsdnj.org)  
(609) 631-4168