



September 4, 2020

**RE: Virtual Learning Expectations**

Dear Uplift Hampton Middle School Families,

We are so honored that you have chosen our school to partner with you in your child's journey toward academic success. Here at Hampton, we aim to provide opportunities for scholars to engage in exemplary authentic learning experiences through our commitment to our core values, **PRIDE: Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, and Effort**. This is an unprecedented school year filled with many new opportunities to work together to build a partnership to ensure your scholar's social, emotional, and academic success. Our number one goal is to deliver high-quality instruction in a safe and secure virtual learning environment. To accomplish this goal, we need your support in making sure your scholar adheres to the following outlined best practices:

**Creating a Safe Learning Environment:** Scholars must use their first and last name when logging into Zoom for class and for the duration of the class. This measure is to ensure that only scholars assigned to that class are present. Scholars failing to meet this safety criteria will remain in the waiting room until this issue is corrected.

**Creating a Productive Learning Environment:** We want to create an environment that is conducive to scholar engagement; therefore, it is necessary for scholars to sit upright in a chair so they can actively listen and participate. This means all scholars should refrain from lying in their bed, lying on the couch or recliner, playing ball in their room, etc. while they are in class.

**Dressing for Success:** Although scholars do not have to wear school uniforms, scholars are required to be dressed appropriately. Scholars are to refrain from wearing pajamas, hair bonnets, wave caps (du-rags), and hats that obstruct any part of their face. All scholars are expected to be dressed in school-appropriate attire and ready for the day to begin at 8:00 a.m.

**Attendance and Tardies:** Scholars should log into each class no later than 5 minutes before class starts to ensure that they are present and on time. Scholars are to remain in the waiting room until the teacher arrives to avoid being marked tardy or absent. This will ensure that we maximize our learning time in each instructional block. Once class begins, tardy scholars will be required to wait until the teacher can let them into the session. This will limit classroom disruptions. Any scholar who misses a portion of the class period should view missing assignments in Schoology and visit with the teacher during office hours for further assistance.



Attendance is taken every period. Texas laws regarding attendance are followed. Please communicate with us if there is an illness or extenuating circumstances that may interfere with attendance.

**Guidelines for Positive Behavior:** Exhibiting positive behavior during each class period ensures that all scholars receive high-quality instruction in a productive learning environment. To support this goal and limit classroom disruptions, scholars are to abide by the established guidelines below as well as any content/grade-level expectations.

Scholars are expected to be actively engaged and to follow the classroom rules, expectations, and procedures during all times.

Cameras should remain on unless otherwise directed. The camera view should frame the scholar's face limiting views of the surrounding areas. School appropriate virtual backgrounds are allowed.

Microphones should be muted unless otherwise directed by the teacher. The "Chat" feature is the best tool for communication and/or to get the teacher's attention.

Before leaving their computer to go to the restroom or take care of other personal needs, Scholars are asked to send a private message to the teacher and to stop their camera until they return.

Students are to refrain from exhibiting behaviors that disrupt the learning environment for others such as the following:

- using profane language or playing music during the instructional block
- blurting out noises to be disruptive
- sharing items on camera that are not conducive to the learning environment

**Redirection of Off-Task Behaviors:** Our goal is to promote positive behaviors by reinforcing positive behaviors. However, when the need arises to issue corrective measures, teachers will follow established campus procedures.

When a scholar exhibits off-task behaviors, teachers will:

- a. Give positive praise to scholars following the expected behaviors while giving a general reminder of the classroom expectations.
- b. Send a private chat message to the scholar sharing the violation (in the bed, camera off, dress concerns) and explicitly state the expectation.
- c. Private chat the scholar once more before moving him/her to the waiting room for a cool-down period.



If these measures fail to support the scholar with his/her behavior concerns, the parent will be notified to assist in this matter.

**Rewards and Incentives:** This year we will begin our positive behavior support initiative, *The House of PRIDE*. Scholars will be divided into the House of Perseverance (green), House of Respect (yellow), House of Integrity (purple), House of Discipline (blue), or House of Effort (orange). By exhibiting PRIDE, each scholar can earn incentive points for his/her House that can be redeemed for prizes or special privileges. More information to come~

**Parent Conferences/Concerns:** We appreciate your involvement in your scholar's learning, but during the instructional block, we are asking that you refrain from interacting with the scholar or asking the teacher questions. This creates a classroom disruption and potentially a violation of confidentiality. If you have questions, please email your scholar's teacher, and allow up to 24 hours for a response. If extra assistance is needed, please contact your scholar's grade level Dean. If after speaking with a Dean you have additional concerns, please contact the Director. An email directory is listed on our campus's website.

As a team, we understand that these can be challenging times. Please be assured that the guidelines and expectations are for the purpose of creating a safe and productive learning environment. We are here to support you during this historical moment in your scholar's educational journey.

On behalf of Uplift Hampton Middle School,

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