Orientation for Parents
3rd Grade - 12th Grade
September 2020

Main resources we will be using:
- ❏ Live sessions through Zoom
    - ❏ Each class has a fixed link and password
    - ❏ Review of some of the Zoom features:
        - ❏ Present screen
        - ❏ Mute/unmute
        - ❏ Ask for turns
        - ❏ Whiteboard
        - ❏ Chat
        - ❏ Share files
        - ❏ Reactions
        - ❏ Breakout rooms (for older students)
    - ❏ Classes won't be live all period or every period, but most will have a live part, probably towards the beginning of the class.

- ❏ Google Classroom and other GSuite applications
    - ❏ Each student has a "name.lastname@hostosschool.com" account.
    - ❏ E-mail (configured and used like gmail)

    - ❏ Google Classroom
        - ❏ Accessible at classroom.google.com or via an app.

        - ❏ All updates appear on site stream, via app and as an e-mail.
        - ❏ Stream can be used for sharing announcements, instructions, having discussions, giving feedback to all or one on one. It will also be used for attendance.
        - ❏ Please make sure your children have joined all Google Classrooms they've been invited to. (all classes in schedule should have a classroom) If missing one, the student can request the teacher for an invitation or classroom code via e-mail (all teachers and students are part of the system and typing "t.(name)" brings up most teachers.

        - ❏ Classwork

- ❏ Generally have a due date and time,
- ❏ Generally students have to turn something in via the system. (documents, presentations, pictures, diagrams, videos, links, etc.) and get graded for it.
- ❏ Students can turn in assignments past the due date for less credit.
- ❏ Teachers can provide individual feedback.
- ❏ Classwork due dates also appear on "google calendar".

- ❏ Parents and guardians
  - ❏ Parents can receive a summary on assignments, announcements, etc. If registered with a gmail account you can set preferences regarding the frequency of these summaries. If you are not receiving these updates, you can ask your child to send the request to the teacher, including your email.

- ❏ Other Google Apps
  - ❏ Google Docs for writing
  - ❏ Google Sheets for spreadsheets
  - ❏ Google Slides for presentations
  - ❏ Jamboard as a virtual board for "pinning" things around a certain topic.
  - ❏ Google calendar
  - ❏ Google Meet for video conferencing

- ❏ The same Hostos account can be used on other sites with a "log in with google" button
  - ❏ Khan Academy
  - ❏ Lucidchart / Lucidpress
  - ❏ Cava
  - ❏ … among many others.

Making the most of remote learning

- ❏ Introduction
    - ❏ Remote learning seeks to recreate the in-person, face to face classroom over the internet. Different from online or virtual learning where often adults take a course and go at their own pace.

    - ❏ Benefits:
        - ❏ Overall provides more flexibility to teachers and students.
        - ❏ Allows students to engage with their coursework at a more personalized pace helping to equalize disparity between different learners. (explanations and work can be reviewed and practiced again)
        - ❏ Benefits those that are more visual learners. (lectures, assignments, etc. tend to be more in line with their style of learning)

    - ❏ Disadvantages
        - ❏ Lacks social interaction and is more difficult to maintain student accountability.
        - ❏ Technology can be complicated (susceptible to difficulties and disruptions)
        - ❏ Distance learning can be distracting (sidetracked by websites, social media, games, …)
        - ❏ The lack of face to face interaction deprives the teacher and the group of those rewarding moments that take place in a classroom.

- ❏ What our teachers learned based on experience
    - ❏ Although distance learning provides flexibility about when to study and carry out tasks, most of our students can still benefit from structure. Classes will therefore follow the daily/weekly schedule and in most cases will include a part live session with the teacher and class combined with time to "do" on one's own.
    - ❏ As external cues to aid students in dedicating time to learning activities, they should wear the school uniform shirt during scheduled classes. Attendance will also be taken at the beginning of each class (for grades 7-12th) and beginning of the day for the rest.
    - ❏ Likewise teachers are being asked to work from school instead of from home to help maintain the required formality and structure.
    - ❏ It is easy to overestimate what can be achieved in class period which over time can lead to unrealistic expectations and for students to feel burdened. Therefore teachers will only communicate with students on days they have classes with them and no later than their scheduled class to ensure there is no information overload.

- ❏ Projects will be broken down into reasonable blocks, ensuring the tasks can be carried out at home and in a reasonable timeframe. Several teachers have opted to do away with homework, seeking to make most of the class period.
- ❏ A greater effort will be made to provide personalized feedback to students.
- ❏ Teachers will continue to take advantage of the myriad of available online resources and tools to ensure interactive, meaningful, and effective learning.

- ❏ Creating an ideal environment at home for remote learning
  - ❏ A good night's sleep of at least 8 hours is key. It is suggested no screens or TV watching 1 hour before bed and that devices are charged during the night outside your child's bedroom.
  - ❏ Disable notifications on the device(s) during school/class periods.
  - ❏ Create a study or remote learning space that is clean and tidy, well lit, and preferably in an area that keeps your child accountable.
  - ❏ Ensure breaks are taken as needed including stretching and taking in some sun.