

April 2, 2020

Dear HLCS Elementary Parents,

There have been many changes over the last weeks, but we can rest in the assurance that we serve a faithful and unchanging God. I want to first thank you for your partnership and patience as we started distance learning these last few weeks. As we look ahead to an additional 9 weeks of closure, we are making some changes to our distance learning. HLCS is committed to providing our students and families with high-quality instruction as well as solid academic growth. We also desire to make the learning experience manageable and engaging.

For the period of March 16-April 9, the elementary staff sent out or will send out homework and the accompanying lesson plans. Due to the recent COVID-19 changes, and the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order of our governor, this is not a long term viable option for all families. Our teachers are moving online for the remainder of the school closure. That being said, there are options on how to get material to your family. Please communicate with your teacher your preferred method of receiving materials.

Option 1: Pick up in school foyer M-F 7am-6pm. This may be an option on the way to a grocery store or a hike.

Option 2: Materials can be sent electronically. Handouts will either be emailed to you, or posted in Google Classroom.

Option 3: A staff member can drop materials off to your home.

Option 4: Materials can be sent through the mail (this is the option of last resort.)

Starting April 13th, elementary teachers will provide a weekly overview of their lesson plans for Monday-Thursday of each week. These lessons will focus on the subjects of Bible, Math, Language Arts, and other important subjects specific to the grade level. Fridays are reserved for 4 options, students may catch up on work from the week, teachers can assess students, students can do the optional enrichments from their gym, art, or music teacher, or you may choose to take the day off and do an activity as a family. Our specials teachers will send their optional lesson ideas to you through your classroom teacher. Complete the enrichment activities or not as you see fit for your family.

Your student will also have **two** 30-40 minute electronic student meetings per week. Using either Zoom, or Google Meet - both platforms are usable from any device. If possible, all students are encouraged to attend their twice-weekly class meetings. This meeting will start with a devotion and prayer and then move into another activity. If your family cannot make the scheduled meeting time, please communicate with the teacher. We understand not every student will be able to attend every meeting.

Teacher and family flexibility will be key to making our distance learning as beneficial as possible. Due dates will be given but can be extended for students at a parent’s request. However, with 9 weeks of learning remaining, the best thing for your child’s education is

consistent daily learning. Please respect your teacher's weekly due dates and communicate with the teacher if there are parts of the lesson that you need an extension on.

For our weekly chapel, your teacher will email you a link to a video chapel lesson for the week. These will be shorter than our traditional chapel but will be a meaningful time to worship and learn about God's word. If you have multiple children in elementary, we encourage you to do chapel together!

At Harbor Light Christian School we see our distance learning time as an opportunity for growth and development for our students as well as another way to partner with parents to "raise next generation leaders for Christ."

Regular communication with your classroom teacher is essential to make sure our team is doing the best we can to help your student grow. If you would like to check out a Chromebook for your student to use, we still have about 25 left. Additionally, if internet connectivity is an issue for you, please let me know.

At this time, we will not return to face-to-face instruction. The Governor's Executive Order does leave the possibility of returning, stating that schools are closed "unless restrictions on public gatherings and use of school buildings are lifted before the end of the 2019-2020 school year." **We will continue online learning through June 2nd.**

Rest assured, our teachers are working more than ever to ensure that our students continue to learn and do not fall behind. Our students will not sit idly for the next two months, they will grow in their walk, and studies. Thank you for all of your support and grace as we continue to navigate this time together.

Finally, I am lifting your family and this distance learning experience up in prayer. Please join me in praying for students, teachers, parents, and our community. Feel free to contact me or your classroom teacher with any questions you may have. This will be a year our students (and teachers) remember for a lifetime! Let's knock it out of the park, together!

In His service,

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