

April 2, 2020

Dear HLCS Middle and High School 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. Your students finished the 3rd marking period strong. I heard many good reports from the teachers about the high quality of work and student engagement in our first two weeks of closure. As we look ahead to an additional 9 weeks of closure, we are making some changes to our distance learning to ensure high-quality instruction as well as solid academic growth.

For the two weeks prior to Spring Break, as well as the first week after break, the staff utilized Google Classroom and/or Praxis to communicate lessons and distribute materials. We will continue with these tools. They are working! However, starting the week of April 13th, each class will hold a twice-weekly Zoom/ Google Meet session. If connectivity and family schedules allow, please have your student log in to the twice-weekly meetings. (Look for the schedule in your inbox by the middle of next week.) If your student is unable to attend, please discuss it in advance with the teacher. Attendance will be taken. Teachers will use these meetings for instruction, discussion, further explanation, and a time for questions. 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.

Due to the COVID-19 changes, and the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order of our governor, we are providing various options for obtaining/ turning in classroom materials. Please communicate with each teacher your preferred method of receiving materials.

Option 1: Pick up in school foyer M-F 7 am-6 pm. 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.)

Another change is that starting April 13th, teachers will provide new content and assignments for 4 days per week, Monday-Thursday. Fridays are reserved for 3 tasks, first students may catch up on work from the week, second teachers can assess (give tests) students, third students will work on their gym, art, and/or music classes. Students do earn credit for their work in their elective classes, and will need to submit work regularly to their elective teachers.

Teacher and family flexibility will be key to making our distance learning as beneficial as possible. Here are some basic ground rules I'd like you to discuss with your student

1. Students are expected to check-in and spend time on each class each day. (not just zoom meeting days)

2. Homework and tests must be completed and submitted by 10pm at the latest on the day they are due.
3. No homework will be due the day it is assigned. Homework turned in after the due date is subject to grade reduction. (unless an extension was granted prior to due date)
4. Tests and quizzes will be announced with at least 2-days notice. Any test or quiz that is not completed by a student on the day it is given will result in loss of grade without the option to retake. (Unless teacher and student have previously communicated about the need for an extension)

We are still hosting a weekly chapel! Please have your student(s) log into the live zoom chapels we are hosting on Thursday 11:30-12:10. Students can get a link from their Bible teacher for this. These chapel sessions will be a meaningful time to come together, worship, and learn about God's word. If your work schedule allows, I encourage you to join the chapel too!

One thing weighing heavy on my heart is our seniors. They have already missed out on a number of "lasts". The Board of Education and the staff here are committed to having an actual graduation ceremony. If we must postpone the ceremony to later in the summer, we will. Once safe we are committed to honoring this class with the celebration they deserve.

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, and have exams June 3rd-5th.**

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 teachers with any questions that you may have.

In His service,
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