

March 13, 2020

To the HCA Community,

After careful consideration, we have decided to close HCA until further notice as a precautionary measure to limit community transmission of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Both the Division 1 Harpswell Campus and Division 2/3 Brunswick Campus will be closed for at least the next week and possibly longer. Classes will continue remotely through our Anytime/Anywhere Learning Plans. As with our existing snow day routine, students must submit evidence of work completion to be marked as “present.”

You can expect to receive another update from me by the end of the day on Monday.

We have been in constant communication the past several days with the Maine CDC, Maine Department of Education, faculty & staff and our Board of Directors to make this decision. We transport and host students from 28 towns spread over a large geography and we understand that this creates a unique opportunity for the COVID-19 virus to spread. Our goal is to safeguard students, staff, HCA families, and our communities by implementing early preventative measures.

HCA will continually assess the situation and will re-open doors as soon as possible.

It is important to recognize that remote student education will move forward uninterrupted on Monday morning. Crew leaders and teachers will be in touch with every student and family directly to discuss lesson plans and communicate any adjustments with how Anytime/Anywhere Learning will be implemented for finishing up Trimester 2 and starting Trimester 3. Faculty will teach and support student work remotely.

Resources and Student Services

As communicated earlier, HCA will continue to provide access to school lunch, technology and in-person or phone/online student support (including counseling and related services) to anyone in need. During the closure, school buildings will be staffed but not open to the public. Please let us know if you need to get student medications from school.

To request assistance, please reach out to me at sbarksdale@harpswellcoastalacademy.org or one of our school counselors (Amanda Wogaman at Div 1 - awogaman@harpswellcoastalacademy.org or Kaitlyn Pulju at Div 2/3 - kpulju@harpswellcoastalacademy.org) and we can create a more personalized plan for your student for next week. All policies regarding privacy and security of student data will be followed.

Academic Plan

Students should have their devices and chargers going home with them today, as well as 2-3 books. If you do not have your device, please let us know and we can arrange for pick-up. Teachers will be sending out plans for the completion of Trimester 2 and the starting of Trimester 3 early next week. Until then, use our standard Anytime/Anywhere Learning Plans ([PDF](#), [DOC](#)) for your child to submit evidence of working for 3 hours a day. Students should check google classroom for each of their classes for assignments. Please let us know if your student does not have internet access.

Next Steps

Moving forward, we will continue to follow the guidance and recommendations of the Maine CDC, Department of Education, and we will also listen closely to members of our community. We are available through our regular communication lines if you have any questions.

In the meantime, I want to take a moment and ask that everyone take care of themselves, their families and their neighbors. As educators, we have done our best over the past several days to separate fact from fiction and help guide students to a better understanding of the existing risks and how to minimize them.

As a school for entrepreneurship and social change, part of our mission is to help students understand how they can impact the world around them. We are reminding everyone that the purpose of this closure is to limit transmission to the more vulnerable among our communities. You can support this message by keeping students at home with you and helping them practise good hygiene and healthy habits. We look forward to returning to a normal schedule as soon as possible.

Wishing all of you a safe and healthy weekend.

Best,

Scott