



March 16, 2020

Dear HCA Families and Friends,

I'm writing with the hope that you are doing all you can to keep your families and communities healthy and safe. Weathering this storm will be a group effort, and we all need to do our part.

At HCA, our part involves more than just teaching and learning. It involves the security of students knowing there will be breakfast and lunch each day, the comfort of knowing that a friend or caring adult will always check in, and the hope of knowing they can make their futures full of opportunity and happiness.

At this point, it is looking very possible that schools across the state could be closed for the next three to four weeks. It could be a little shorter and it could be much longer. For the past week, we have been preparing for how to best serve our students and families in the case of a long-term shut down.

So, here's our plan for this week:

- **Tuesday:** A message for GRIT will go out first thing each weekday morning starting tomorrow.
- **Tuesday:** Crews will begin meeting online through Google Meet starting tomorrow morning at 9:00 am. Please have your student log in to his or her email for the link.
- **Wednesday:** An optional food, materials and technology drive-through pickup will be Wednesday between 3:00 and 4:00 at our Division $\frac{2}{3}$ campus (8 Leavitt Drive, Brunswick). Your student's crew leader will be checking in about technology needs. Anyone is welcome to come and pick up nonperishable food supplies or school supplies.
- **Thursday:** Trimester 3 classes will begin online this Thursday. Students can expect to receive a schedule by the end of the day on Wednesday.
- **Friday:** We'll be mailing out a care package to each of our students from school with some school supplies, some "getting started with online learning" resources, as well as some things to remind them that HCA cares about them.

Here's our plan for our school routine starting next week:

- A **GRIT** message will be sent out each morning through school email, as well be posted on Instagram and Facebook.
- **Crews** will have a check-in every weekday at 9:00 am on Google Meet.
- **Classes** will be held each day in Google Classroom. We hope that students will be able to participate online in real time, though it is OK if some students need to login after the class and access the recording and complete the work.
- **Attendance:** If students attend classes and complete the work (in real time or asynchronously), they will be marked as "present." If students do not attend and complete the work, they will be marked as "absent."
- **Food, class materials/supplies, library books, and technology:** we will be setting up weekly drop offs in several of our sending towns. Please look in the Friday newsletter for details about this routine as well as how to make requests for materials.

Finally, one of the pieces that is crucial to online learning being successful is that each student has someone at home who is always checking in with them, always making sure they are ready to login for crew at 9:00 and for classes after that, and always making sure they are getting what they need to be successful. You could call this a student's learning coach, an accountability partner, or even a trainer. Whatever you call it, someone needs to do it. **Would you be this person for your student?** Maybe his or her older sibling could be it, an aunt, uncle or grandparent? Every learner needs this kind of support at home for online learning to be successful.

I am sure there will be many questions that come up. Always feel free to reach out to your student's crew leader, academic teachers, or to me. My next communication will be with our weekly Friday newsletter.

Many thanks,

Scott

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