

Greetings Hope Academy Families,

I hope this weekly update finds you all healthy. Our teachers have been working so hard to keep student learning on the right path. By next week, we hope that each of you will have experienced a virtual classroom meeting of some sort. Our faculty members miss their students so much, and we cannot wait to see their smiling faces again.

While the students are away, administration, faculty, and staff members are working to improve our campus and distance learning. Our campus is undergoing a deep cleaning--inside and out! Repairs are being made, and the final touches are being made on "The Studio" in hopes of a Grand Opening as soon as possible. Feel free to stop by and take a picture in front of our hawk wings on the front of the building! Mrs. Rachel Rath is working on launching our new website, and we can't wait to share it with you! Teachers are learning new ways to meet the needs of students through distance learning, virtual classrooms, online learning platforms, and more. They are learning from each other, and the teamwork is off the charts, even as we stay the recommended 6 feet apart.

We are hoping to return to school on April 20, as we stated in our last communication. If that changes, we will let you know as soon as possible. However, we are changing Spring Break to April 6-13. This will give you Good Friday and the day after Easter off, and it will allow us to return earlier than April 20, if that looks like the safe thing to do. We will continue to follow guidelines from local, state, and national agencies to make those determinations. I am meeting regularly with our Board Chairperson to make decisions in the best interest of our faculty and student families.

In addition, we are preparing for the possibility that we may continue distance learning beyond April 13. Although that is not a scenario we hope will play out, we will be prepared to do so. Grades K-2 would move to more online learning platforms (i.e. Learning Farm, Brainpop, Khan Academy, ABC Mouse, etc.) and away from the packets that we are currently using. To prepare for this possibility, teachers are researching the best online learning platforms, using them on a trial basis, and learning how to use them as a teaching and learning tool. We purchased 24 more Chromebooks, so that students who need that resource at home will have it. Since our 3rd-8th grade students already have Chromebooks through our 1:1 Device Policy, we will start the new wave of distribution in 2nd grade, then 1st, and finally Kindergarten. Once those devices are on campus and inventoried, we will communicate with parents about how and when those will be distributed.

Even though we are social distancing ourselves, we are all in this together. We love seeing your Facebook and Instagram posts using #whoarewe and #wearehopeacademy. Your photos of love, learning, family, art, and good old-fashioned fun bring immense joy to our HA family. Please continue to post those so we can stay connected. Next week we will be promoting a Virtual Spirit Week. Please post those pictures with the hashtags and send them as a message on our Hope Academy Facebook page. We plan to create a slideshow for each themed day. You do not want to miss out on this!

With Hope,

Heather Blenden

Head of School

Additional Information

Here is an example of a Distance Learning Schedule. This is only a recommendation; you should adjust the schedule to fit your family's needs. Be sure to give yourself and your child(ren) a break anytime you need to do so. Emotional health is just as important to maintain during times like these, especially for children's sake.

Before 9:00am	Morning Routine	Eat breakfast, make your bed, get dressed, brush your teeth.
9:00-10:00am	Outside Play	Play outside before it gets too hot! Have a snack afterward.
10:00-11:00am	Academic time	Tackle your hardest subject early in the day.
11:00-11:30am	Brain Break	Do something creative- art, build with legos, cook, crafts!
11:30-12:00pm	Academic time	Choose one academic task that you can complete in 30 minutes.
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch time	Have a healthy lunch outside.
12:30-1:30pm	Academic time	Tackle your easier subject at this time.
1:30-2:00pm	Brain Break	Play a board or card game.
2:00-3:00pm	Academic time	Read a book and complete any work that you have not tackled yet.
3:00-4:00pm	Screen time	Kids- I know you've been waiting for this all day!
4:00-6:00pm	Outside Play	It's starting to cool off outside! Go for a walk, ride a bike!
6:00-6:30pm	Dinner	No electronics at the table! Share the best part of your day.
6:30-8:00pm	Evening Routine	Chores, baths, movie time! What works best for your family?
8:00-8:15pm	Bedtime	Adjust this for age appropriateness.

30
MARCH

HAWKS DAY

Wear your favorite Hope Academy Hawks shirt.

31
MARCH

WHATCHA READING?

Show us what you're reading!

SPIRIT WEEK

01
APRIL

PET DAY

Snap a pic of you and your pet.

02
APRIL

ART DAY

Let's see your arts and crafts projects!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Lots of you are taking time to do art projects. Why not enter them in this contest? Click the link for more information. <https://www.treasury.ms.gov/collegesavingsmississippi/Pages/Events.aspx>