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hopeacademyfg.org

March 16, 2020

Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your flexibility during this time. We had a faculty meeting this morning, and I must brag on our Hope Academy teachers! They are entirely ready to take on this new approach to teaching and learning and to continue to meet the academic needs of our students during this unprecedented time. We had a great brainstorming session this morning to determine how we will move forward.

Our priorities are:

1. Safety
2. Education
3. Compassion

Hope Academy intends to deliver the product we promised-- a quality education, even during this difficult time. Teachers will provide assignments to students the morning of Tuesday, March 17 for this week. We will make assignments available either by pick up (for K-2) or virtually (for 3-8) for this week, some teachers will be combining these approaches.

Tomorrow between 8:30 am-3:15 pm, parents will be allowed to come pick up their child's assignments, textbooks, and Chromebook/charger (3-8). Parents in K-2 can also be emailed the assignments in lieu of picking them up, if necessary. Please call Mrs. Malissia during those hours, if you need your child's assignments emailed to you or you need to make other arrangements. All students who need a Chromebook in grades 3-8 can take theirs home, even if they have not paid the rental fee for the year.

If you are sick or feel you have been exposed to the virus, please do not come in the building. Malissia and I will be here, if you need anything, please let us know. We are happy to help by delivering materials to your car, if needed.

Teachers may be contacted by email or you may call/text them, if they provide their number to do so. Please only contact teachers during regular school hours for questions or concerns. Teachers are available during school hours to answer any questions, to provide help with assignments, and to provide encouragement about completing schoolwork. Grades will be recorded for the assignments provided.

All Hope Academy PTO and extracurricular activities and MAIS activities have been cancelled through April 1. We will update you as new information is available. For now, Hope Academy school will be completed through distance learning for this week. We will take a week by week approach, and we have not made the decision for next week yet. We will generally follow what the public schools do in our area as far as school closures.

Decisions that we make are fluid and subject to change day to day. Please check your email frequently for updates.

It is possible that we will make up some of the days that we have closed, but that is a decision that will not be made for some time. I wanted to give you a head's up, so you may want to hold off on making any summer plans for June until we know for sure.

We will also be using Facebook to keep in touch with our families. We would love to see posts of your child engaged in distance learning. Use the hashtags #Whoarewe #WeareHopeAcademy when you share!

Keep each other in prayer and help each other as needed. These are uncharted waters for all of us, we are family, and this will only make us stronger and better in the end!

With Love and Hope, Stay Well!

Heather Blenden

Head of School

Tips for Distance Learning:

Prepare a space for your child to work that is quiet and free of distractions.

Have all necessary school supplies in the learning space.

Create a schedule for your day, include 2-3 hours a day (spread out) for your child to complete assignments.

Unless your child's teacher states otherwise, feel free to provide help and guidance on assignments.

In addition to the assigned work, plan activities to keep students enriched, such as exercise, games, arts and crafts, singing, and dancing.

Limit your child's screen time.

Distance learning can be stressful for children and parents, take breaks whenever you need to do so.