

March 19, 2020

Dear Parents,

I know these past few days have been difficult to navigate at times, but I am truly amazed by the resilience, determination, drive and support that our faculty, staff, and families have shown.

Our distance learning plan will be extended through April 17. Each student's teacher will be communicating with parents and students regarding their expectations and individual approaches to distance learning. The lower grades are largely using packets, while the upper grades are using virtual learning tools, such as Google Classroom. It is best to communicate directly with the teacher when you have questions about work expectations because each one is taking a unique approach to meet the diverse needs of students on a developmentally appropriate level.

Moving forward, we will limit distance learning to a 4-day program, which means teachers will only provide 4 days of work per week. We believe this approach will help alleviate some of the stress on families and children. The additional day will give you a day off or a day to catch up, whichever is appropriate for your family. We also do not plan to provide work during the week of April 13-17.

We have placed a shelving unit with boxes on the back porch (near the cafeteria) for work packets to be picked up and dropped off as needed. Sanitizer and disinfectant spray will be left at the station, please use it before and after each visit to the box, so we can minimize the spread of germs. New packets will be available after noon on Friday, March 20. Most teachers are preparing packets for the next three weeks. Look for communication regarding that from your child's teacher.

As you can see, this situation is changing rapidly, so we will continue to communicate with our Hope Academy families as changes are made. As we continue this new path, I know that we will encounter challenges. This is a fluid situation and decisions that we make are subject to change day to day. Please remember that we are doing our best to deliver a quality education and to keep students growing academically.

If concerns or questions arise during the next few weeks, please do not hesitate to reach out. Email is the best option for contacting administration and teachers. Please communicate with the teachers and staff during regular school hours, which are 8:00am-3:15pm Monday-Friday. Teachers are working so hard, and I ask that you respect their need to have uninterrupted time with their family after school hours.

Thank you so very much for your patience and support for Hope Academy! We will come out of this stronger than ever!

Stay Healthy, Happy, and Hopeful,

Heather Blenden

Contact information for key office personnel:

Heather Blenden- [principal@hopeacademyfg.org](mailto:principal@hopeacademyfg.org) for academic questions K-8 and general questions

Malissia Chitwood- [malissia@hopeacademyfg.org](mailto:malissia@hopeacademyfg.org) for operational questions and preschool questions

Meredith Carriere- [meredith@hopeacademyfg.org](mailto:meredith@hopeacademyfg.org) for FACTS and billing questions

Monica Triplett- [monica@hopeacademyfg.org](mailto:monica@hopeacademyfg.org) for technology assistance/Chromebook support

Teacher emails are their first name with the same ending, except for Ms. Bruno. Her email is [judybruno@hopeacademyfg.org](mailto:judybruno@hopeacademyfg.org)

Additional information:

AR testing can be completed at home during regular school hours 8:30am-3:15pm.

<http://hosted158.renlearn.com/3482102> is the link. Your child should know their log in information, if they do not, check with their teacher.

Mrs. Triplett has adjusted the restrictions on Youtube on the Chromebooks from strict to moderate, because many of the videos that the teachers were trying to use/share were blocked. Please be mindful of this when your child is on their Chromebook.