



HOCKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Preparing all students for lifelong success

March 19, 2020

Dear HSD Families,

I hope you are all well.

I know that every HSD family has been impacted on some level by the coronavirus. You and your students have been on our minds as we do our best to come to grips with this crisis and coordinate independent learning resources and organize supports like meal service for all students and day care for the children of first responders and medical professionals.

I wish I could tell you that these programs are all ready to go, but for the most part they are a work in progress. The good news is that we are working through the challenges and we will keep you posted on their development and eventual launch.

While district and building administrators have been developing these programs, they have also been working with unions to clarify expectations relating to employee safety and job responsibilities. This week was designated as a planning period, during which most HSD employees have not been reporting to work. So our district has been operating as we would if this were a “snow week” with these five work days (March 16-20) being added to the end of the school year. However, this is not the only proposed revision to our 2019-20 school calendar. The final day of school has been moved from June 10 to **June 19** and HHS Graduation has been pushed back from June 5 to **June 11**.

Starting next week, many of our employees will begin to work remotely to contact parents regarding student progress and, in many cases, suggest online learning resources and activities that will support the maintenance of student skills. Teachers will also be participating in Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings for our students who receive specialized services. We anticipate that this format will continue in the weeks that follow as we work to address student equity concerns and explore online instructional models. Should this school closure be extended past April 24, building administrators and teachers will look to implement elements of this online educational model to serve our students, especially our seniors.

I know that there are countless questions about what things will look like as we move forward during this closure. I will be honest with you, we don't have all of the answers yet. In some cases, it is because we are facing challenges we have never faced before. In other cases, it is because information is constantly changing. But I think the number one message I want to convey to you is that we care about our students, their health and their learning. The challenge is to show them that when we are no longer face to face. I can tell you that we are working long hours to create learning opportunities for your students that they can access from home and I will do my best to keep you current with whatever services we are offering.

Steven Marshall, Superintendent

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Our School Board had an emergency meeting this past Saturday to discuss our district's continuity of operations. In a [board resolution](#), they made it clear that the HSD will keep the focus on student health and safety while making every effort to support student learning.

In keeping with public health recommendations (social distancing), our next board meeting on Monday, March 23 will be conducted online. The exact platform has yet to be determined, but a link will be available on our website no later than Monday afternoon.

There is no doubt that the coronavirus has changed what teaching and learning looks like in Hockinson schools. But it has not changed our commitment to students and I am seeing multiple examples every day of how our staff, parents, and students are innovating to keep learning alive. This creativity is inspiring and I remain very hopeful about the possibilities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Steve Marshall
Superintendent, Hockinson School District