



HOCKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Preparing all students for lifelong success

March 27, 2020

Dear HSD Parents,

I hope you and your family are healthy and adjusting to our new normal. Life at my house has changed considerably since last week. My son was still at college and my younger children were enjoying a virtual education that was facilitated by my wife, who was awaiting further direction from her school district. Fast forward a few days: My son, along with all of the contents of his dorm room, is back in the house. He is annoyed by his younger siblings who are growing increasingly restless. My wife is exasperated with all three of them because she is trying to focus on her webinars and report cards. Home sweet home...

As you would expect, life in schools has been a little different as well. Last week, our staff was on a "snow week" (that has been added to the end of the school year). This week, we are taking steps toward online instruction and it is like the digital and educational floodgates have been opened at the same time! Our teachers have different ideas and backgrounds with technology, so we are working hard to get aligned as we prepare to facilitate at-home education in the coming weeks.

At-Home Learning: What is it? What is the Plan?

At-home learning could go by the labels remote learning, online education or distance learning. The HSD has settled on the label "at home" because it conveys a process of remote teacher instruction and teacher-provided resources that support student learning in your home (ideally with your monitoring and assistance).

Your child's principals and I have been meeting to coordinate expectations relating to virtual parent-teacher conferences, the rollout of at-home learning, and the tech equipment and platforms that will facilitate such communication and instruction. This is where we are as of today:

Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences

In lieu of the face-to-face parent-teacher conferences that would have taken place this week, all three of our schools have been working to provide you with some kind of written student progress report. I know that some of our teachers have also hosted Zoom conferences.

This was a big undertaking by everyone! I appreciate the efforts of our teachers to provide you with this information and I appreciate you making the time to read it. Your awareness of your student's current status as well as their participation in remote instruction will contribute to the success of our at-home learning model.

Timetable for At-Home Teaching & Learning

- **NOW (Through April 6): @ Home Learning Resources**

Steven Marshall, Superintendent

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At-home learning [resources](#) are being provided via HSD website and individual teachers. These are online- or print-based activities used by students/parents to maintain academic skills. Some teachers are piloting virtual class meetings and sharing additional learning resources and activities. This is not yet expected across-the-board, but we are headed in this direction.

- **POST-SPRING BREAK (After April 6): Gearing up for @ Home Instruction**

April 6-10: A team of administrators and teachers will coordinate professional learning to HSD staff so they can complement our current learning resources with a rolling launch of online instruction.

April 13: First steps toward online instruction, keeping in mind that:

- Teachers of seniors might need to get out of the gates a little earlier as we are committed to ensuring that they get the content and opportunity needed to graduate.
- Everyone understands that the plan is to start small and grow in both our practices as well as our time expectations for students...we do not want to overwhelm ourselves nor do we want to overwhelm our families.
- The HSD will need to minimize equity concerns (e.g. internet, language, special needs...)
- Content is coordinated by grade-level or content-area teams (it is important that teachers are coming together to look at critical standards and designing work that meets those standards within the limited time frame that remains)

Tech Tools

While we build up our capacity, we are going to try to keep things as simple as possible by starting small and working with the tools we already have, namely:

- Email
- Phone
- Email attachments
- Links to online learning resources that are appropriate for students
- Schoology
- Zoom video conferencing*

** Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about your child using Zoom. You have the option of opting out of live video conversations.*

Student Tech Services

Throughout this closure, the district's Tech Support team will be available to assist your family with app and connectivity issues related to your student's HSD-issued iPad. Due to safety reasons and a shortage of parts, Tech Support will only be able to support iPad repairs on a case by case basis.

They will also be able to reset any Google, Schoology, or Smoothwall passwords if needed. If you contact Tech Support concerning any district curriculum services such as IXL, iReady, Wonders, etc, your message will be forwarded to the appropriate staff member so they can assist you.

Tech Support's preferred method of contact is email, but they will also follow up on your voice mail:

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Email: techsupport@hocksd.org; Phone: 360-448-6402

News Items

District Office: Our District Office will be closed to drop-in foot traffic throughout our state's stay-at-home order. However, our main phone (360) 448-6400 will still be monitored from 8 am - 4 pm M-F.

Meal Service: HSD's student meal service will not be offered during Spring Break.* It will resume on Monday, April 6. Meal pick-up will be available in the bus turnaround at Hockinson High School between 10 a.m. and noon M-F. **Important:** Our at-home meal delivery service will end on March 28 to protect the health of our employees and families. We are working on developing a new delivery model (e.g., satellite locations).

** Spring Break meals were provided in advance to families on Friday, March 27*

Parking Lot Gates: Gates will remain closed at HMS and HHES over Spring Break. However, HSD families are welcome to access those campuses on foot (please practice social distancing). The main gate at HHS will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon-Fri.

School Watch: We will be checking our buildings periodically over the break. But if you notice something amiss, please call (360) 448-6400. In the event of an emergency, call 911.

Day Care: Beginning Monday, April 6, the HSD will be providing day care services to the children of first responders and health care workers. This service will take place at Hockinson High School from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. To register, email Charity Schadt at charity.schadt@hocksd.org.

Closing Thoughts

On behalf of the HSD staff, I want you to know how much we appreciate your understanding as we shift our service model to respond to this public health crisis. We know it has had a significant impact on our students and your family. Since our schools closed on Friday, March 13, we have been charged with protecting the health of our staff and students and well as providing:

- The content needed for our seniors to graduate;
- Meal service for any student who needs it;
- Day care for the children of healthcare workers; and
- Online instruction for all students, while still being equitable to students with diverse needs.

The amazing staff members of the HSD have pulled together and are making it happen! Retooling our instructional model will put us to the test, but we will innovate and work hard. We won't be able to do this alone. In the weeks ahead, your partnership and support will be critical to enabling us to continue to meet the needs of our community and our learners.

Thank you and take care -

Steve Marshall
Hockinson School District Superintendent

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