



## Hancock School Department

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March 14, 2020

Dear Hancock Grammar School Families,

Over the past few weeks I have been monitoring the rapidly changing COVID-19 coronavirus health issue. After careful consideration of all currently available information, I believe it is important that we close Hancock Grammar School for a period of time. This decision was made out of an abundance of caution. The health and safety of our students, staff, families and community is of the utmost importance.

- **School will be in session on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> until the regular dismissal time.**
- **There will be NO SCHOOL from Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> through at least Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**
- **Effective March 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 all HGS afterschool programs, activities and sporting events are cancelled and the facility will be closed to all outside use until further notice.**

Today, Saturday the 14th, our dedicated teachers, support staff and principal came in at my request and spent the day preparing educational materials for ongoing home-based learning to ensure our students continue to be academically engaged. I am pleased to announce that ALL K-8 STUDENTS will leave school on March 16<sup>th</sup> with a laptop or tablet and a home kit of school supplies (*alas, there is no TP in these kits. We are sorry, but we just can't spare a square!*). We are working on plans to provide the breakfast/lunch program remotely to students. Additionally, we are aware that not all families have access to the Internet at home and we are exploring potential solutions.

I truly understand that this closure will cause disruption to our students and families, but I strongly believe that these measures will have the greatest success of decreasing risk to our community as a whole, if we take action now. I understand that there are many unanswered questions regarding issues such as the possibility of a lengthier school closure, revised dates for spring sports and plans for April Vacation. I will continue to monitor the situation surrounding COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and will keep you informed of our plans going forward.

In closing, on Friday I heard from staff that many students were communicating feelings of stress and sadness related to the cancelation of favorite activities and fear for the health of their friends and loved ones. In light of this, I would be remiss if I did not encourage you to try and keep your sense of humor (*see above* 😊) and find every way possible to engage your children in physical activity (*playing outdoors: NOT canceled* 😊) to relieve stress! I wish you all continued good health during the coming weeks and thank you in advance for your support as we work to continue student learning while ensuring the safety of everyone we care about.

In Partnership,

Katrina Kane  
Superintendent of Schools

Follow the link below for a resource from NPR that conveys information about COVID-19 with children in a humorous manner. We included in our home kit for students 😊.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus>