

May 1, 2020

Highland Christian Families,

We want to thank you for your strong partnership as you have supported your students so well. Your determination and willingness to collaborate with our teachers is certainly applauded. It is often said that our community makes Highland Christian School an excellent place to be.

Last year's theme was *Run Your Race*. I believe God used this time, and our focus on Hebrews 12:1, to prepare us for the season.

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF (Monday, May 4 from 3pm - 6pm)

Due to the great success of April's Pick-Up/Drop-Off Day, there will be no changes to our process.

Please Return:

- Completed Student Work, Leveled Reading Books, Completed Library Books

Please Keep Until June 1:

- Textbooks, Library Books (Being Read), Technology Devices

2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 No School	26	27	28	29	30

June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3			

Yellow = Instructional Day

Blue = Classroom Activities (Online)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UPDATE:

- Thank you for your strong participation in completing the Google Form that awarded \$250 to every Kindergarten through 8th grade student. **Through this gift, the Highland Christian School Board was able to provide nearly \$100,000 in support to our families.** Roberta Huitsing (rhuitsing@highlandchristian.org) has sent these account credits to SmartTuition, which was applied to your account on April 29.
- On top of the blanket gift to our families, **Highland Christian was able to award over a dozen families further financial assistance** to support those who were significantly impacted by COVID through the loss of employment.

PARENT SURVEY UPDATE:

Two weeks ago, parents had the opportunity to fill out a eLearning Feedback Survey to communicate how things were going for their child and family. With almost one hundred responses, we were able to collaborate with parents, review practices that were going well, and reassess what areas we could improve upon to help our community.

Here were our findings:

1. On a 1-10 scale, 80 of 84 respondents indicated eLearning was going somewhere between fine and excellent. (8, 7, 10, and 9 were our most populous answers)
2. There were some barriers (lack of technology, communication challenges) that were identified on an individual level.
3. Some feedback was given about the amount of work students received. Coincidentally, the total number of people requesting more work and people requesting less work was the same.

In response to the survey, here are the steps we have taken:

1. We have provided additional technological resources to families (K-8).
2. We have implemented additional student interventions where necessary.
3. We have reevaluated our calendar and will be using June 1 and 3 as days of "social closure" for students. The last day of instruction will be May 29.
4. Grade levels have adjusted student workloads based on parent feedback.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**Grading**

- There will be no major changes in grading at this time. Highland Christian's primary goal with grades is to communicate achievement and progress towards mastery of grade-level standards. All report cards will indicate that the 4th Quarter was completed in an eLearning setting to underscore the change that is represented by an extended period of eLearning.
- If students do not perform well on an assessment on their first attempt, they are encouraged to be in communication with their teacher to receive reteaching and an opportunity for reassessment.

Thinking Ahead to 2020-2021

- It is currently too soon to make decisions or announcements about the 2020-2021 school year. However, we remain optimistic that social distancing and safety precautions taken by our community are moving us in the right direction to return in the fall. We will continue to monitor state and federal agencies, as well as information from medical experts as we plan for an engaging and well-planned 2020-2021 school year.

How has chapel been going?

- Chapel has been going very well! Between Mr. Huizenga, Mr. and Mrs. Weener, and some parent volunteers, God's Word and worship is being proclaimed each week. Typically, HCS Facebook chapels have had over 500 people view chapel - either Live or at a later time!

We would encourage you to join us on Thursday mornings at 8:30am on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/highlandchristian/>

Can I still get technological resources to support my child?

- Yes! Please reach out to Rick VanderWoude (edtechcoach@highlandchristian.org) to seek support or resources.

Is something happening for Teacher Appreciation Week?

- Absolutely! Keep your eye on your email next week Monday!

Blessings Always -

Kyle Weener - Highland Christian Principal

kweener@highlandchristian.org