

Highland Christian Family:

On Monday, March 9 and Friday, March 13, notices were delivered to Highland Christian families communicating our careful monitoring of the coronavirus concerns that face all members of our community and world. We shared our collaboration and communication with local, state and federal agencies and institutions. These organizations include, but are not limited to, the Department of Education, the governor's office, the CDC, local health authorities, our sister schools, and local public schools.

Canceling school for an indefinite period of time is a decision that has many layers with various implications and feasibility issues for each family in our community. For the past few weeks, HCS's Administrative Team has actively participated with local agencies to prepare for necessary changes if it was deemed prudent to close the School.

While meeting with the staff on Friday, the phrase was used, "When the dominos fall, they will fall fast". On Friday afternoon the dominos began to fall. In light of the various announcements, which include a declaration of a national state of emergency, communication with local superintendents about school closings, and notice from the Department of Education, Highland Christian will be suspending classes.

A thorough and complete plan to address community safety, educational concerns, and various school events has been established and is being shared here.

Highland Christian School will resort to closure and E-Learning for two weeks (3/16 - 3/27), which will immediately be followed by Spring Break.

Below, you will find a detailed plan to illuminate next steps for parents and students:

Monday (3/16) at 8:30am: HCS teachers will be meeting to collectively plan for nine days of E-Learning. Students will not report to school.

Monday (3/16) from 3:30pm - 6pm: Parents and/or students must come to school to pick-up individualized plans for the remaining nine (9) E-Learning Days. Teachers (one from each grade) will be in the classroom to provide the required resources, supplemental materials, and a pacing guide for the nine days of content. During this time, the library will be open for students to check out additional reading resources.

Tuesday (3/17) from 8:00am - 10am: In the event you are not available on Monday evening, we are asking you to communicate with the homeroom teacher and front office that you will be picking up these materials Tuesday morning. It is encouraged, if at all possible, to come to school Monday evening.

Tuesday (3/17) - Friday (3/27): E-Learning will continue while teachers support and grade students' work remotely. Teachers will be supporting students daily and will use school resources and communication to assist learning. The focus of this instruction will be enriching taught standards, reinforcing essential standards, and introducing some new concepts that can be mastered independently.

Saturday (3/28) - Sunday (4/5): Spring Break

Thursday (4/2): Re-evaluate return to school

Monday (4/6): School resumes

Other Questions you May Have:

Are there activities and large events that will be rescheduled?

The following events have been tentatively rescheduled:

- The Lion King Jr. has been rescheduled to April 22 - 24.
- The Elementary Spring Concert has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 30.

The following events will tentatively remain as scheduled:

- The School Auction will tentatively remain on Saturday, April 18
- Young Authors at Highland Christian will continue, but the portion at Trinity Christian College has been canceled.

Is the Sonshine Enrichment Center (SEC) closed?

Yes. SEC is closed, but will also participate in E-Learning.

Will extracurricular activities be canceled?

All extracurriculars have been suspended immediately until further notice.

If we have technical questions with OnCampus, who should I contact?

Mr. VanderWoude (edtechcoach@highlandchristian.org) or your child's homeroom teacher.

When will the Highland Christian School Office be open?

- Monday, March 16: 8am - 6pm
- Tuesday, March 17: 8am - 3pm

- Remainder of the Closure: 8am - 1pm

Will there be any further adjustments to the calendar?

- Monday, April 13 has been added back to our master calendar. We will be having a full-day of school on April 13.

Will the school library be open?

- On Monday, March 23 and Monday, March 30, the library will be open from 8am - 1pm to check out books for your child. If checking out new books, please return your old books at this time.

What is happening to IDOE State Testing?

- We are delaying all testing. We will reassess the situation as we learn more from the state.

Are there any additional steps the school will be taking to ensure a safe return to school in April?

- The school will use the time off from school to complete a thorough cleaning of the school building. This will focus on touch points, student and faculty common areas, and areas that are hard to address while school is in session.

As you spend the coming three weeks cautiously approaching travel and social distancing, we encourage you to be mindful of others, appropriately considering personal plans, and taking safety precautions as recommended by local health officials and the CDC.

We know that God is in control. As a community, we urge you to join us in prayer for our community, leaders, families, and those impacted both in the United States and abroad.

Blessings Always -

Kyle Weener, Principal - Highland Christian

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