

HUNTINGDON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

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Mr. Travis R. Lee,
Secondary Principal

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"ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES"

To: Learners, Parents, and Guardians
From: Mr. Travis Lee, High School Principal
Re: HAHS Coronavirus Update
Date: March 27, 2020

"The best way out is always through."

- Excerpt from *A Servant to Servants*, Robert Frost

"The only way out is through . . . together."

- John Green, young adult author

Good afternoon,

The messages above certainly give us some thoughts to ponder and reflect on as we as a school and community navigate the challenging times of enduring prolonged time frames of social distancing, business closures, and uncertainty about when our lives can return more to normal, in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

I hope that this message finds you and your family healthy and well as we all navigate differing circumstances in regards to the current situation. ***We certainly miss seeing our learners in the building, and the connection that we typically have with them!*** With that said, we know that we want our learners to continue to have meaningful learning experiences, and this message explains information about the high school's continuity of education plans, as well as other pertinent information. We know that learning will look different at each building level, so this is a follow-up to the district-level correspondence from our Director of Education, Dr. Rieffannacht. ***Please review the information carefully, and contact the school with any questions.*** Despite our best planning efforts, this is a unique learning experience for all. Plans and procedures certainly may be fluid as we adapt moving forward. We will communicate any changes to you.

Please know that we will, and must, work through this situation together. As we "flatten the curve" as a society, we have a steep learning curve as educators and learners, transitioning to remote, digital learning to a degree that, though we've made preparations for creating flexible learning environments, never envisioned providing this to all within this short timeframe. Digital, remote learning will still be meaningful but recognize that it will be different. I appreciate your patience and support with our staff, and with your learners, as we proceed.

Weekly Flexible Instructional Day (FID) Schedule

Please use the following link ([HAHS Weekly FID Schedule](#)) to see the weekly schedule for FID. These include Live Instructional Days on Mondays and Thursdays and Instructional Days on Tuesdays and Fridays for high school learners. The times for live sessions with classroom teachers are scheduled by daily class periods and are posted in this schedule.

The live sessions could consist of teachers reviewing assignments and expectations with learners, providing an overview of content or instructional presentations, or providing the class with the ability to ask questions. Additional resources such as video presentations may also be utilized. Please note that learners will have two 25-minute live sessions for each class period each week. Sessions may not take the entire 25-minute timeframe.

Instruction begins on Thursday, April 2, 2020. We are planning to wrap-up instruction and assessments for the third marking period on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. However, this date may change as we assess the first week of remote learning. Beyond this date, we will assess our progress as a district and what capabilities we have to provide meaningful education to all learners as we continue with continuity of education plans and determine assignment and grading expectations.

Instructional Resources

Teachers will be utilizing each class's Google Classroom to deliver material and assignments to learners. This is a procedure that is currently used by many already, so should be simple in transitioning. Learners should be checking their Google Classrooms and email daily to stay up to date with assignments and expectations.

One new instructional resource to many, though, is the use of **Zoom**. Zoom is a videoconferencing tool that will be utilized to hold live sessions. The amount of use of Zoom for the live instructional days will differ by teacher and class needs and expectations.

Learners will receive invites for Zoom sessions, and instructions, from their teachers. However, an overview of the process and tools for Zoom will be shared in the coming days.

Materials Pick-Up Procedure

Though many instructional resources can be provided virtually as we implement remote learning and FID, there will be some physical materials that learners will need to retrieve in order to be best prepared to continue with their education. Please use the following link ([HAHS Materials Pick-Up Procedure](#)) to navigate to a memo outlining the procedures for materials pick-up for high school learners on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 and Wednesday, April 1, 2020. ***Teachers will be communicating any necessary materials that learners need to retrieve from their classrooms to them via Google Classroom by 12:00 pm on Monday, March 30, 2020.*** Some learners will not need to retrieve anything, but this will be dependent upon the classes that they have. iPad insurance forms and Off-Campus use forms will be available for those that need at the building entrance.

Please review the ([HAHS Materials Pick-Up Procedure](#)) document carefully because there is important information and guidelines that must be followed in order to maintain social distance and for the process to operate efficiently. This certainly is a unique endeavor, so your patience during the process is appreciated.

Dual-Enrollment and AP Courses

Learners in AP and Dual-Enrollment classes have had information shared with them via their Grade Level and course-specific Google Classrooms. We are working with our partner institutions to ensure a continuity of education and so that learners can earn their credits.

HAHS Cyber Academy

Learners that take HAHS Cyber Academy courses, or online classes through the World of Learning (WOL) or Odysseyware platform, previously received a message about learning expectations through these pathways in their “HAHS Online Learning Group” Google Classroom. Learners should continue to check email and classroom postings frequently for updated information and should continue with their prescribed learning paths and communication with their instructors.

Keystone Exams

The **Spring 2020 Keystone Exams have been cancelled**. We will await guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) for what this means in terms of state graduation requirements and testing windows for the future.

Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center (HCCTC)

The HCCTC is currently reviewing continuity of education procedures. If your learner attends the CTC, please be on the lookout for information from the CTC, or from HAHS on their behalf, in the near future. In addition, ***there will be no NOCTI exams this spring.***

Events and Activities

Most school activities and events have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. We understand how important extra and co-curricular events are to the learning experience, and it is unfortunate that these cannot proceed currently. It is still too early to tell ***when, or if***, some of these events may be able to be rescheduled, but will inform you when we have updates. There is not currently a timeline for rescheduling or final determinations, but we will continue to assess the feasibility of all activities as we move forward.

School Meals

HASD will continue to provide meals for pick-up, both breakfasts and lunches, on Mondays and Thursdays and Huntingdon Area Middle School and several satellite locations. Please see the school district website for the most updated meal information and forms. A special thank you goes out to all staff and volunteers that have made this process a success! During the most recent meal distribution, the school prepared and delivered over 1,200 meals!

20-21 Scheduling Process

Learners were to have turned in their Course Selection Sheets, with a parent/guardian signature, into their English teacher by Friday, March 13. We were to begin scheduling for next school year for seniors on 3/17 and juniors and sophomores on 3/18.

The scheduling process is now postponed until further notice. If learners still have Course Selection Sheets, they may drop them off at the HS Office during the materials pick-up on 3/31 and 4/1, or they may email their sheets to their school counselor.

Community Resources and Engagement

The document in the following link ([Huntingdon County Community Resources](#)) is a list of community and social service contact information for citizens, businesses, and organizations, organized by the Huntingdon County EMA. This list includes information about restaurants offering takeout, delivery, and curbside pickup services.

We know that it is important to stick together, and support one another, including our businesses, during this time. Hopefully, these resources can be of interest or help to your families.

Digital Citizenship

As learners are engaged in their schoolwork digitally to a greater extent, and as they find ways to stay connected with friends remotely, it's important to remember and promote good digital citizenship skills and habits! [Common Sense Media](#) is a great resource for learners and families in this regard.

Class of 2020

March, and what looks like the immediate future, has not provided the ability to offer our seniors what we would like for them. I mentioned some of these sentiments to seniors via a video in their Google Classroom last week, but know that this group is especially on our minds. We are hopeful that we will be able to find opportunities to schedule important milestones for them. Whatever the future may hold, please support our seniors during this unique time.

Spirit Days and Weeks

HASD will continue to look for ways to engage all learners in building a sense of community and connectedness as we proceed through the school closure. Visit the district website and social media accounts for updated information. Also, please share any successes in this regard to school or personal social media accounts, using #HASDstaystogether!

Thank you for your time reading this message. We will get through this process by working together! We have great kids at Huntingdon, and we will continue to do our best to support them. I'm proud to be a Bearcat!

Sincerely,
Travis Lee