

Dear St. HOPE Class of 2020,

I hope that you are doing well and settling into your virtual classes. I am so proud of the engagement I am seeing from all of you in our first few days of executing our virtual learning. At this point 100% of our senior scholars have participated in distance learning! You are our first grade level in the network to have 100% participation. Thank you for being flexible and adapting to this new way of learning and staying focused on your goal of finishing high school and matriculating to college.

I know this is not the way you or any of us saw your senior year ending. Before I get into sharing details of how we are planning to move forward and make adjustments to our previously scheduled plans I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge that it is very disappointing to not be able to end this school year the way we had planned. Of all the missed events and lost opportunities across our network, my heart grieves the most for all of you, our Class of 2020. It has been hard for me to accept that many of our senior traditions we were so excited to experience with all of you are no longer possible. I want you to know that if you are feeling disappointed about this, you are not alone.

I also want to give you hope. We are committed to ensuring that you have meaningful experiences as you wrap up your high school career. We have been working hard with our leadership team and Ms. Smith has been working hard with our Senate scholars to get creative and think of how we can still honor all of you in this new virtual reality. I also want you to remember our mission and focus on your future. Because while concluding your high school career is likely one of your biggest accomplishments thus far, you have a lot of life ahead of you and I am grateful that you have many more rites of passage awaiting in your future. As you move onto pursuing your college degree, looking back and reminiscing on missing some of your senior year events will not feel as profound. Your world will grow with you and even bigger and better things await you in your future.

One hidden positive in switching to our distance learning platform is that this is the most aligned to the format of college instruction we have ever been. When you are in college you have a lot of freedom to determine how and when you are going to complete assignments. This is very similar to our current model where you have all day to structure your time and determine when you prefer to complete your school work. In college you attend lectures where it is up to you to be focused and take down necessary notes. This is very similar to the videos your teachers are producing. In the college setting you are expected to hold yourself accountable to staying on top of your work as you do not have teachers in classes individually following up on your progress. I encourage all of you to take advantage of this opportunity to practice these skills to prepare for your transition to college. Try and think about this as a pre-college experience instead of a missed high school experience. And know that during this time as you are figuring out how to best learn in this environment that your teachers and staff are all here to support you. Be sure to attend Office Hours as needed and to request meetings and support as needed.

Now I am going to review some important end of year items and let you know how we are proceeding with each of them.

PROM- Given the continued Safer At Home orders and the closure of all non-essential businesses it is impossible for us to host our traditionally planned Prom. **In lieu of Prom our Senate will be hosting Morp.** Morp is Prom spelled backwards. Senate landed on this name for our replacement event since everything in the world is a little backwards right now! Morp will be held via Zoom on Friday, April 17th from 7:00pm-8:30pm. Students will receive a Zoom log-in to participate. You are encouraged to dress up and get fancy! This should be a nice break from living in our PJs! Next week, leading up to Morp we will have virtual spirit days each day.

Monday, April 13th- College Swag
Tuesday, April 14th- Superhero
Wednesday, April 15th- Dragon Dress
Thursday, April 16th- Meme
Friday, April 17th- Twin

SENIOR TRIP- We are working with USA Student Travel on how to cancel the trip and facilitate refunds to our students due to COVID-19.

SENIOR ATTENDANCE- For the Class of 2020, we have cancelled our Senior Attendance policy given the disruption of COVID-19. **Attendance will not be used as a factor for your graduation.** I want to emphasize that for your learning and progress it is still very important for you to be showing up for yourself each day and completing your daily assignments. However, we will not be looking at attendance as a factor for determining whether a student can participate in graduation activities.

COMMUNITY SERVICE- Given the Safer At Home orders, it is much more challenging for students to find and participate in community service opportunities. For this reason, the 20 hours of Community Service hours due in Semester 2 are no longer required. For those of you that owed hours from previous semesters, those owed hours will no longer be required for graduation. **Your Community Service Hours due this semester will not be used as a factor for graduation.** Your previously earned grades for Advisory will not be changed but you will not need to complete these hours to be able to participate in graduation activities. Students who would like to still complete their hours and can identify safe ways from home to do so are welcome to. We will just not be counting it against any student.

COLLEGE COUNSELING- **Mr. Marks has reached out to all of our Seniors to set up one-on-one meetings** to help seniors make their college decisions and to support them with securing their financial aid. Please prioritize scheduling your check-in with Mr. Marks if you have not already done so. Mr. Marks can be reached by email at collegecounselor@sachigh.org or by phone or text at 916-275-9628. **May 1st is the last day for you to commit to a four year university.** Please ensure you are meeting with Mr. Marks before then and finalizing your selection. I cannot wait to hear where you all choose to attend!

SENIOR PORTFOLIOS- You all have been working on completing your Senior Portfolio throughout this year in Advisory. After a lot of thoughtful consideration, we believe that keeping this as a graduation requirement could cause unnecessary stress. In our digital platform, Advisory has transitioned to be a stress-free time for connection. Therefore, **Senior Portfolios will not be used as a factor for graduation.** Given how integral senior portfolios are to the tradition of graduating from Sacramento Charter High School, some advisors may choose to continue to lead you through organizing your portfolio documents.

SIGNING DAY- Given that this event is scheduled to take place at the end of May, we are still monitoring the progress of COVID-19 and waiting for more information before officially canceling. We are also researching potential virtual options.

GRADUATION- Given that this event is scheduled to take place at the beginning of June we are still monitoring the progress of COVID-19 and waiting for more information before officially canceling. We are also researching potential virtual options.

I hope this letter helps give you clarity on what the next couple of months will look like. We are committed to continuing to support and prepare you to successfully graduate from Sac High and move onto your next adventure!

Sincerely,
Kari Wehrly