

March 27, 2020

Dear St. HOPE Public Schools and Community Members:

I hope you are doing well and staying healthy. It has been two weeks since we were last physically together at our school sites and we miss seeing our scholars and families! I hope you are adjusting to social distancing and finding hidden positives in the midst of this unprecedented time.

As I mentioned in my last communication, our team has been working diligently to put in place distance learning opportunities until we are able to physically resume our normal, in-person instruction. We know that consistent routines are important for our scholars' success and their mental health. We also know how important it is to take advantage of every opportunity we have to prepare all of our scholars to go to and through college. We see the absence of our physical learning environment as a temporary obstacle that we can overcome. We are a creative and resilient community and our shared passion for our scholars' success will propel us through this time.

We are looking forward to resuming instruction via a Distance Learning model on our first day back from our pre-scheduled Spring Break on Tuesday, March 31st. It is unknown how long schools will remain closed. We will reopen once it is determined safe to resume learning in our physical environment. For the duration of our school closure, we will provide our scholars with continued access to high quality instruction. We continue to collaborate with public health, government and education leaders, and our future plans to open our schools will be appropriately informed by guidance and coordination with these experts. As of today, school closures are anticipated to remain in place in Sacramento County until at least Friday, May 1st.

Even though we will not be able to physically return to our campuses and classrooms when instruction resumes, we are excited to virtually kick-off our new quarter via Distance Learning! Although these plans are subject to change based upon a variety of factors, our Distance Learning will be mostly composed of utilizing two main platforms - Google Classroom and Zoom. Both of these online platforms are free and can be easily accessed via a smartphone, a tablet, a desktop computer or a laptop. All of our teachers have Google Classrooms created for each of their courses and all of our scholars have been assigned to all of their classes. Google Classroom will be our virtual location where scholars can access all of their lesson materials.

Yesterday, we mailed home a letter for each student in our network that includes their google classroom login and password. We will also be individually sending this out via email on Monday, March 30th to ensure everyone receives this important information. We will be reviewing the goals of our Distance Learning plan during our pre-scheduled professional development on Monday, March 30th, including but not limited to how and when teachers will upload lessons and host "live" opportunities for students to receive additional support or just say "hi" to their teachers. We are excited to leverage our creativity via this Distance Learning platform and to continue to support our scholars. I have been so impressed watching so many videos our teachers

have created over the past week and a half and I cannot wait for our scholars and families to see the products of their hard work!

We understand that this is a challenging time for the entire world, and we will approach this new model of Distance Learning with a spirit of creativity, flexibility and understanding. Our intention is to provide quality learning opportunities, support and a sense of community for our St. HOPE scholars.

You can expect to receive another update from me early next week. Please also continue to check here for updates - <https://www.sthope.org/post/covid-19>.

Sincerely,
Ms. Wehrly