

March 31, 2020

Dear HSD Staff,

As we've learned many times over the past month: ***what a difference a day makes.***

In yesterday's Hot News, we reiterated that our learning plan for students would be centered on providing supplementary distance learning for students, beginning Wednesday, April 1, and continuing through Tuesday, April 28.

Last night, however, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) hinted that schools may not return to session this academic year, and released new guidance (<https://bit.ly/2X06ofQ>) that completely changed their stance on how education is to move forward during this extended closure.

As a recap:

- On March 12, we learned that students would lose seven school days.
- On March 17, we learned that students would lose over a month of school.
- On March 30, we learned that there is a very real potential that our students, like those in many other states, may not return to school this academic year.

When we believed students would only lose a few days of school, the plan was potentially to make up some of those days in the summer; when we believed students would lose over a month of school, the Governor ordered schools to deliver "*supplemental education and learning supports to students to the extent practical.*" Now that the possibility of losing the rest of the school year is before us, ODE is calling on school districts to provide Distance Learning for All, which would include new, graded content for students.

Distance learning is defined as instruction in which the student and instructor are in different locations. Students engaging in distance learning have access to appropriate educational materials and receive ongoing interaction with their teacher(s). It is important to note that distance learning includes multimedia communication and blended learning strategies, not just digital/online learning.

All districts are required to have their Distance Learning for All plan in place by Monday, April 13, 2020. Districts are to approach Distance Learning for All with a focus on care, community, and continuity of learning.

Key elements of Distance Learning for All are:

- Every student regularly connects with their teacher(s).
- Teachers and students prioritize time together to focus on the most important or relevant learning.

- Teachers, families, and caregivers work as a team, anchored in partnership. Together, teachers and families co-facilitate learning, design consistent routines, and establish the learning environment.
- Teachers continue to monitor, report, and record each student's progress toward learning goals and standards, encouraging critical problem-solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity.
- Schools provide multiple, flexible opportunities - for high school students in particular - to earn credit on their pathway to graduation.*
(*Please note that specific guidance for seniors has not yet been released by ODE. We anticipate this by mid-April and will communicate the information as soon as possible.)

ODE will be releasing additional guidance over the next few weeks and we will communicate new information as we have it. This will be a new experience for all of us - schools, students, teachers, and families alike. Please know that the system will not be perfect in the beginning and that we all need to have patience and grace for one another as we figure things out together.

That said, here is how the Hillsboro School District intends to move forward:

- Students will begin accessing and working on their grade-level supplementary learning packets (<https://bit.ly/hsddistancelearning>) on Wednesday, April 1.
- Between Wednesday, April 1, and Friday, April 10, teachers will be contacting families to check in, see how they're doing, what their needs are in terms of technology and other resources, and, in general, establish a relationship with them.
 - ***Please note that in order to protect your personal phone number, you will be reaching out to families through technology tools like Google Hangouts Meet, which may appear on parents' phones as an unidentified number; a number from another state, such as New York; or as the tool itself, such as Hangouts Meet.***
 - ***We are advising parents that if they have set up a spam call blocker that declines all unidentified numbers, they could be blocking calls from their teacher or school and should change this setting on their phone so they can receive these important calls.***
- Between Monday, April 6, and Friday, April 10, teachers will be posting lessons to their Google Classroom, Seesaw or Bloomz site, or to HSD's Distance Learning website (<https://bit.ly/hsddistancelearning>). These lessons are intended to prepare students for the new learning they will begin receiving on Monday, April 13.
- We will be receiving from the state, interpreting, and developing our own guidance, tools and resources for this shift.
- On Monday, April 13, Distance Learning for All begins.

Again, this is just preliminary information so that you are aware of the shift that has taken place. We will be working with our union leaders and with principals to determine how Distance

Learning for All will look and feel on a daily basis, and how classroom teachers and other staff should prepare for and implement the new learning model.

We are excited for the opportunity to reconnect with students and families, and to provide students with the new learning they deserve. We, along with your principals, will continue communicating with you over the coming weeks. Please contact your principal or OSP if you have questions, concerns, or needs we can help address, and please stay tuned to our coronavirus webpage at www.hsd.k12.or.us/coronavirus for all the latest information..

Thank you for the work that you are doing. As we transition into a new way of serving our students, I continue to be so appreciative of your many efforts and your incredible commitment to kids.

Respectfully,

Mike Scott
Superintendent