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MELANIE MATTA, SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL

March 19, 2020

Dear Hope Family,

As you know, the school will be closed beginning **Monday, March 23th through Monday, April 13th** due to our nation's health concern. Here are some helpful guidelines as we all walk through these next few weeks together.

**How does this three-week closure impact the school calendar?**

Regardless of how many days the school ends up staying closed, HESD will not be adding any school days to the end of the year.

More information will be announced at a later date regarding April/May scheduled school events.

**Will my child be provided with schoolwork during this time?**

Yes, teachers will be prepping daily engagement work for all grades from now through April 9th (April 10 and 13 are holidays). Each teacher will be preparing weekly work for your child. Some work will be online while some may be paper/pencil type work. Teachers will also be working during this time and will be available to you through email Monday through Friday. New work for each week can be picked up every Monday with the exception of Monday, March 23. Work for that week will be available on Tuesday, March 24 to allow teachers time to prep upon their return from Spring Break.

**When will we receive information from our teacher about the work?**

Hope staff will be working on Monday, March 23rd to prepare work for this week. You will need to pick up work from the teachers on Tuesday, March 24th and then each Monday following the school closure. Our teachers have a communication app that they utilize. They will be in touch with you through those apps, email, or a phone call.

**What if my child does not have a Chromebook?**

Parents can check out a Chromebook and charger on Tuesday, March 24th when they arrive to pick up work. Checking out a Chromebook will require a parent/guardian to sign a contract. If you have your own technology, you do not have to check a Chromebook out. During the three week closure, if you have an issue with your Chromebook or change your mind and want a Chromebook, please email Adela Maciel ([amaciel@hope-esd.org](mailto:amaciel@hope-esd.org)) and we will arrange for you to pick one up..

**What if I do not know my child's passwords/login information?**

You can contact your child's teacher to get their login information.

### **How often will I be receiving communication from my student's teacher about their work?**

The teaching staff has been asked to communicate with their families a minimum of once per school day. If a need arises, you may personally reach out to our teachers through email/classroom app until April 9rd.

### **What if my child currently qualifies for the free breakfast and lunch program?**

We have already begun the process of contacting our families to see who is in need of this service. Our "Grab and Go" meal plan will include lunch for the day and breakfast for the following day. This service will be offered starting on Monday, March 23 from 11:30-12:30. We are working on getting multiple days of meals together so stay tuned for a modified "Grab and Go" schedule.

### **What if my child has medication on file with the school and we are in need of it?**

If your child has medication on-site you may contact Adela Maciel (amaciel@hope-esd.org) or 784-1064 to schedule a time for pick-up.

### **What if my child has an IEP meeting scheduled over the next three weeks?**

Our RSP teacher will contact each family that has a scheduled IEP meeting on the calendar. We may reschedule some or decide to move forward with holding the meeting. If you have any questions about your child's IEP please contact Leslie Covert (leslie.covert@tcoe.org, or SPEECH ONLY-Sarah Turner (sarah.turner@tcoe.org).

### **Do you have any resources available in navigating conversations with my child regarding this national health concern?**

Yes, our counseling team has put together a few resources that can be found by checking out the links below:

#### **National Psychologist Association of School Psychologists - Talking to Children About COVID-19**

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

#### **Child Mind Institute**

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

#### **Coping with Stress**

<https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma14-4885.pdf>

#### **2-1-1 Tulare County**

2-1-1 Tulare County connects our communities with resources, services, and opportunities, through the non-emergency 2-1-1 phone number.

Phone: 211

<https://www.211tularecounty.org>

#### **Julia Cook, Children's Author**

Julia Cook, a former teacher and school counselor, writes books for children that let them laugh while learning to solve their own problems, use better behavior and develop healthy relationships.

Children's social story about staying healthy - "[The Yucky Bug](#)"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD9KNhmOCV4>

<https://www.juliacookonline.com/assets/uploads/2020/03/Yucky-Bug.pdf>

### **Cosmic Kids**

Interactive mindfulness and relaxation techniques to help children feel calm, positive and focused.

<https://www.cosmickids.com>

### **Closing Comments:**

Over the next three weeks, if you have specific questions or concerns please email [amaciel@hope-esd.org](mailto:amaciel@hope-esd.org) or [mmatta@hope-esd.org](mailto:mmatta@hope-esd.org) and you can also call the office during normal business hours 559-784-1064. Please take this precautionary measure seriously and keep students isolated as much as possible. Thank you for your partnership, trust and understanding during this unprecedented time in our world's modern history.