

March 17, 2020

Hello Hough Families

I hope this email finds you and your family doing well. This email is to provide an update or additional information regarding our work at Hough. I have divided the information into segments again in an effort to keep things organized and concise. Information changes daily and hourly so we don't want to add to any confusion.

Calendar

Last night, the CMS Board of Education voted to return Spring Break to its original week in the CMS School Calendar. Therefore, April 13-17 will be Spring Break and students will not be required to attend school or work from home that week.

Academics

Beginning tomorrow, all teachers will be working from home. On Thursday, will enter a **"Remote Supplemental Learning"** phase. By tomorrow, all teachers will have posted directions and expectations for their students on their online classroom. This will include how the class will operate in an online format, when the teacher will be available, when and how instruction will be provided, will there be video learning or "live chat" opportunities, etc. **"Remote Supplemental Learning" will be from March 19 – March 27.** That is the 2 weeks which Governor Cooper has closed all schools in NC.

During this time there will be:

- No new course content: All assignments will be review, reading, writing, studying, etc. This is to prevent students from losing the academic progress they have gained this year and to keep their thinking and their skills sharp.
- Supplemental assignments provided from March 19 – March 27 will not be graded. Supplemental assignments are optional.
- Students who have missed assignments, tests, or retest or have late work to submit from work due prior to March 16 should contact their teacher and submit those assignments.
- Students should check teacher online classrooms each school day for new announcements or supplemental / optional assignments.

Mid-term exams scheduled for next week are postponed. More information about that forthcoming.

We have received information from the College Board that the AP exam dates scheduled in May may be extended due to school closure. We know that many of our AP students are worried about how they will be prepared to do their best on these exams. Please stay tuned. We want our students to be able to take their AP exams so they can earn the college credit they have worked so hard for.

Teachers will be checking in with students in the coming week to make sure they are ok and to see if they have any questions. Teachers will also be catching up on grading. We want to have all grades up to date in PowerSchool (PS) soon so students know where they are. Some teachers have long term assignments or essays that were collected late last week. Those will take some time to grade, but teachers are working on them.

I have given more information at the bottom of this letter for supporting your student with remote learning.

Other School Information

- Our school building will close beginning tomorrow. The message on our phone system will direct callers to send an email to the school account. We will monitor that account remotely.
- All staff will be accessible via email and will respond within 24 hours.

I'm so proud of how hard our staff has worked to reinvent the way we do teaching and learning, deploy more Chromebooks and hotspots, and make the transition to an online platform as smooth as possible. We thank you for your patience and flexibility.

I will stay in touch with you via these frequent updates. Good luck as we move forward and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rosenbach

How can Parents Assist Their Child?

1. Please monitor your child at home. Teachers will be checking in with students but please reach out to the teacher, counselor, or a member of the administrative team if support is needed. Teachers will communicate weekly with the admin team and counselor of students who do not seem to be working or who are presenting with particular challenges.
2. Monitor grades and work in PowerSchool.
3. Ask your child to show you the online teacher platform where you can see the assignments and their work.

Tips for Student Success with Online Learning: Please share these with your child

As a student, what are my opportunities as part of an online learning community?

- Check online teacher classroom for supplemental assignments and resources regularly.
- Pay attention to possible check-ins offered by your teachers.
- Put in your best effort and reach out to collaborate with your peers when applicable.
- Self-advocate. Reach out to teachers, counselors, family members, and peers when you need any help for any reason.

As a student, how can I stay organized?

- Map out your suggested schedule for the week, considering the supplemental learning suggested for you, your teachers' check-ins, independent study and reading time, and any collaborative time with group members.
- Start your Remote Learning Day early. Waiting until the late afternoon or evening to engage in your supplemental learning may add unnecessary stress and create missed opportunities for collaboration and feedback.
- Divide supplemental learning activities into smaller chunks of time. Take short breaks to increase focus and stay motivated to complete tasks on time.
- When you are completing work remotely, reduce distractions.

As a student, how do I stay connected?

- Ask your teachers questions! Use the online teacher platform.
- Reply regularly to your classmates' products and course discussion boards, if that is provided for you. Use feedback on your products to revise your thinking and guide further learning.
- When possible, check in live, online rather than always sending a chat text or email. Human connection is important!

Consider breaking your day into chunks:

8:00 – 8:15: Breakfast

8:15 – 8:45: Check online teacher classrooms for all classes. Check your agenda, get organized for the day / for the week.

8:45 – 10:00: Study Block. Work on assignments.

10:00 – 10:15: Break

10:15 – 11:30: Study Block. Work on assignments.

11:30 – 12:30: Lunch and break.

12:30 – 2:15: Study Block. Work on assignments, connect with teachers, ask any questions, follow up, etc.