March 17, 2020

Dear Hastings Parents,

To ensure that you have the information that you need for the remainder of the week, we've provided some reminders as well as answers to questions that we have been asked.

**Child Care at Hillside**
In accordance with Governor Cuomo’s order, Melissa Szymanski, Amy Cazes, John DeKams, Gail Kipper, Chris Keogh, Laura Sullivan, and Tesfa Stewart developed a childcare plan to address the supervision and curricular needs of children of health care providers and first responders who are between the ages of 4 through 12 years old. The program will operate daily from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm at Hillside Elementary School. Supervision of the program will be provided by building administrators. Teaching assistants, teacher aides, and monitors, who work for the District, will follow a program schedule that was drafted today and will continue to take shape. A school nurse will also be onsite to monitor the health and wellness of the children. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be prepared in our kitchen in the Farragut Complex and brought over to Hillside. Security personnel will be at the front desk at Hillside. Classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned every day to ensure that children and adults remain safe and healthy. If you have any questions about the childcare program, please email Melissa Szymanski at szymanskim@hohschools.org.

**Meal Program**
*Starting tomorrow from 9:00am-11:00am, Monday-Friday*, breakfast and lunch are available for pick up in the lobby of Hastings High School for any child attending our schools who may need these meals. If you have any questions, please email Maureen Caraballo at caraballom@hohschools.org.

**Google Classroom**
Tomorrow, teachers will correspond with students and/or parents about the assignments, materials, and resources available in Google Classroom. Teachers have
posted their office hours to indicate their availability. Some parents have asked that we include video conferencing such as Zoom, whose CEO is offering service for free to K-12 educators, as a way of enhancing interaction between teachers and students. There is no restriction on the use of Zoom, however, G-Suite for Education includes Google Hangouts, another videoconferencing resource, which some of our teachers have been using. Melissa Szymanski will be happy to work with teachers who may want to take advantage of either tool. If you have any questions or concerns about Google Classroom, please reach out to your child’s teacher and/or building administrator. Melissa Szymanski is also available to assist you. If you have questions about logging on or access to Google, please email our helpdesk lhric.helpdesk@hohschools.org for assistance. You may also email an administrator of your child’s school.

**Chromebook Distribution**

Amy Cazes, John DeKams, and Christian Fadul distributed Chromebooks and hot spots to those families of children who need a device and internet access at home to utilize Google Classroom and communicate with their teachers. If you have any questions about your child’s Chromebook, please email our helpdesk lhric.helpdesk@hohschools.org for assistance. You may also email an administrator of your child’s school for assistance.

**Entry to Schools to Retrieve Supplies**

If students need access to essential items that they left at school, please email an administrator of your child’s school for assistance.

**State Testing, Regents, AP Exams**

Due to the uncertainty of the length of school closures, information has not been provided to districts about when state assessments, Regents and AP exams will be rescheduled or administered. We will share this information with you as soon as we receive guidance from the New York State Education Department and the College Board.

**Spring Break**

We are awaiting further guidance from the New York State Education Department and the Governor’s Office.

**After School Help and Summer Programs**

Because of the uncertainty about the length of school closures, we still have questions about how this school year will end. When we receive guidance from the New York State Education Department and the Governor’s Office we will share it with you and make our plans accordingly.
We realize that this time is unsettling for all of us and we will work together to address the challenges ahead.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Warm regards,

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte