



## Spring Branch Independent School District

### Northbrook High School

No. 1 Raider Circle

Houston, TX 77080

Dr. Antonio Avalos, Principal

[Antonio.Avalos@springbranchisd.com](mailto:Antonio.Avalos@springbranchisd.com)

March 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Community members,

I hope you are all doing well during this unprecedented time in which we are challenged by illness caused by the coronavirus. Please remember to look at our district website if you are in need of food for your children. There are sites and times for food distribution listed on the website.

I wanted to share a few things that the faculty and staff of Northbrook High School are doing to ensure our students do not miss instructional opportunities put in place in order for them to pass all of their classes and continue to prepare for graduation. TEA has allowed all STAAR tests to be waived for this current school year. However, in order for a student to receive credit for this exam and not be held responsible for this test next school year the student must pass the class this year. This is meaningful for Northbrook High School because historically our students have struggled with the English 1 and 2 STAAR exams the most. With this ruling, our students in English 1 and 2 classes, for example, will not have to worry about the STAAR tests this school year so long as they pass their class for that subject. The same goes for students in Algebra 1, Biology, and US History classes.

The best way for us to provide instructional lessons to your child is by doing this electronically through an instructional base called ItsLearning. However, in order to access this program your student will need a laptop assigned to them. If your child does not have a computer from home we ask that you complete a parent form and return it to us. **Starting this coming Wednesday, March 25, there will be district staff members posted at the front of the school waiting for you to drive by to deliver the parent form, show your student's ID, and provide you with a laptop. Hotspots will also be available for those of you who do not have Wi-Fi access at home.** We will deploy these laptops every Wednesday from 12 noon until 2:00pm. If your child already has a computer and access to Wi-Fi, we ask that you drive by anyway to fill out a form indicating this. On these laptop deployment days, instructions will be provided on what your child needs to do in order to access ItsLearning and be able to work on their assignments for their classes. The parent forms will be posted online for you to print and sign and they will be available for you to sign a hard copy on Wednesday as well. Teachers will also be asked to begin contacting students this week to ask what instructional support they may need as well.

*Inspiring minds. Shaping lives.*

Jennifer Blaine, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

[www.springbranchisd.com](http://www.springbranchisd.com)



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We began deploying laptops a few days before we left for Spring Break and were able to provide them to over 200 students. We are looking to provide these laptops to ALL students, including our Yes Prep students. Parents, we really need your support to make this successful to ensure your child passes all of their classes. This process is even more important for 12<sup>th</sup> graders. We have a large group of seniors who need to continue working on their classes in order to graduate. We also have a large number of seniors who need to work on IGC projects in order to graduate; this is due to not being able to pass specific STAAR exams in previous years. I am confident that with your support, all of our Northbrook High School students will be successful this school year.

Our focus in SBISD is to continue to provide quality education to all of our students, albeit in a different yet innovative manner. SBISD administrators have been working hard to create lessons that will be meaningful to your children throughout Spring Break. This week our teachers will begin to work hard in ensuring that quality instruction continues to be provided to your children. The lessons are broad scope in nature for the time being and teachers are asked to not grade the material being completed at this time. Teachers are asked to monitor student completion of their work so that students are able to maintain their instructional routine. The best way to accomplish this is with laptops. I hope I can count on your support for this unprecedented endeavor.

I am hopeful that we will return to our campus after April 10<sup>th</sup>. However, in case this does not happen we will be preparing instructionally to ensure that your student will be in the best possible place to pass all of their classes for this school year. We will be focusing on all groups of students; those needing credit recovery, those working on on-level classes, those working on college material, and those taking advanced classes. Thus, if we are not allowed to return to campus after April 10, assignments will be specific and purposeful and graded accordingly.

Beginning today, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, there are staff members on campus who are working diligently to support our students. However, we are following state regulations in which no more than 10 people are allowed in the building. On this note, I wanted to mention that we are not open for regular school business. If you call our main phone line, you will hear a general message directing you to our SBISD website. We are asking that if you have questions or concerns please contact specific people (e.g. counselors, teachers, administrators, etc.) through email.



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Counselors are still able to discuss and assist you in receiving additional services if needed. If you need general information about our school closure and/or various aspects of instructional concerns please feel free to email me at [antonio.avalos@springbranchisd.com](mailto:antonio.avalos@springbranchisd.com) and I will respond to your concern as soon as possible.

I hope you are all safe and my prayers go out to everyone in our community for everyone to maintain good health. I also pray that we are able to return to our campus and resume our normal lives as soon as possible. Please contact me if you have questions and I ask for your continued support in our efforts to meet our students' educational needs.

Thank you.

Dr. Antonio Avalos

Principal, Northbrook High School

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