



The Taft School

March 27, 2020

Dear Families,

Teachers have been busy at work, on Zoom calls, recording videos, and are ready to engage with their students. We are about to embark on our remote learning plan, and your students will be receiving or have received communication from each of their teachers and perhaps their advisors. As we move forward, please know that we are here to support each and every student but recognize that everyone's situation is different. If a student is having issues with internet connectivity or any other hardship or deadline, make sure they are in touch with their teachers, class dean, and advisor, so we all are on the same page. Teachers will be flexible. We have to be in this age of remote learning.

I also would like to communicate a few communal expectations.

We expect students to:

- Lean into the work and engage as you would in the classroom
- Be present online on a daily basis and communicate with your teacher and classmates regularly
- Ask your teacher, advisor, class dean, or trusted adult for help when you need it; be a self-advocate
- Be in casual, neat dress when you are on a Zoom/Facetime/Skype call
- Adhere to all school rules, even on a digital platform
- Utilize Google calendar, if you have access, to keep track of your Zoom calls
- Frequently check the Taft website and PowerSchool for updates on the remote learning plan, assignment deadlines, and FAQ's

As we engage in remote learning and as a reminder, the Academic Honor Code, found on pages 5-8 of the Student Handbook, still applies and students should ask their teachers clarifying questions if they are unsure about the directions and expectations for any given assignment.

In addition, your student's teacher will, in all likelihood, be recording some of the Zoom extra help sessions, so they can share them with the others in the class who cannot attend a given session. Your student should be prompted to accept or deny the recording. If they deny the recording, only their voice will be recorded.

As far as academic assessment, the focus for the rest of this semester will be on academic habits marks. Each teacher will be submitting habits marks for their students bi-weekly. These will be communicated to you via your student's advisor for the first and third bi-weekly. At the three-quarter mark and the end of the semester, we will be able to notify you through Veracross and the parent portal. At the end of the semester, you will also receive a class comment from each teacher, a pass (or fail) grade, academic habits grades, a class dean letter (except seniors), and an advisor letter. Thank you for your partnership in this tumultuous time. I hope this email finds you in good health and safety.

Warm regards,

Jennifer Kenerson, P'19'21'24
Dean of Academic Affair