

March 23, 2020

Dear Croton-Harmon High School Families,

Highlights at CHHS

I hope you and your families are well as well all get adjusted to eLearning and changes that come to us each day. I am sending my usual weekly update on Monday this week in order to provide you with some updates. I have been keeping the students informed of some updates as they have come along, so I am compiling those in one place for you.

You have already received the most recent K-12 alert including our district's [eLearning guide](#) last night. Although it feels like much longer, our eLearning plan has only been in effect for 3, almost 4, days so far and we are learning and growing every day. As you probably noted in the plan, we are working towards phase 2 with an emphasis on promoting student-teacher connections during eLearning. We know and have heard that our students and teachers are missing classroom interactions and we continue to work on this and share what is working and new ideas with one another. We are exploring ways within an asynchronous environment to provide further communication through the utilization of video and screencasting tools and you will begin to see evidence of that as we enter phase 2.

I have also gotten some questions regarding grading and how quarter 3 and 4 will be treated. We are making sure to think through grading and implications very carefully before coming to a decision and will communicate as soon as one is made. I will let you know about that as soon as I have updates as well as any impact on report cards/report card dates.

While I know students are busy with eLearning, it is also really important to take breaks and build in time to focus on wellness. I have been sharing this with students in my daily videos. Please remind your children to stay in the habit of starting the day with Dr. O'Connell's video by starting at chufsd.org that includes the Pledge of Allegiance and then to navigate to the CHHS page and start with the video there before going onto the classwork (much like we would have morning announcements before starting period 1). It is important to keep routines during this time and I hope that the daily videos for the high school will help keep us all connected. Speaking of connectedness, please encourage your children to send me a picture of themselves in their spirit wear or black and orange gear - I am working on something to keep us all connected and I need their help! I emailed them separately about this as well but we could use a little encouragement.

Finally, although this is unprecedented and difficult, we have so many resources at our fingertips to help keep us grounded. One of those that I want to remind you of is on our library's website: <https://crotonharmonhslibrary.weebly.com/>. From there, students can use the Sora app to access many young adult novels on their devices. As a former English teacher, I really believe that literature can help keep us connected and that we can connect to characters and stories to help us navigate all kinds of situations as young adults (and adults too!). Students

can also sign up for a library card with the Croton Free Library using this form: [Library Card Application \(CHUFSD Students Only\)](#). They will be contacted by email or phone and given their library card number. This allows them to log in for access to all of the library's online resources. [Their website](#) has a wide variety of resources as well as access to even more ebooks.

Updates on programs, events, and testing:

As you know, there have been recent executive orders around public gatherings, closure of venues, schools, and business. This information was sent out previously to students, but there have been a few updates even since then.

PSAT 10 March 25: The Collegeboard has informed us that this is "on hold" and they have said they will communicate again on this in April.

Junior Prom March 28: To date, we know that we are cancelling our junior prom that was scheduled for March 28 (a separate email about this was sent to juniors already) and looking at other options should things change later in the year.

Sophomore Trip to Hershey Park May 15-16 : We are also cancelling the sophomore class trip to Hershey Park at this time (a separate email was sent to sophomores already). Based on the group gathering guidance as well as the fact that the park itself is closed at this time, this is our best option at this time. Ms. McConville has reached out to the sophomores with more details and ideas for the future regarding the trip.

AP Exams: At this time we have received a communication from the Collegeboard letting us know that they are moving to home-based testing this spring. They have said that they will publish the dates on April 3 and indicate that the tests will be shorter (approximately 45 minutes). They have also shared that there will be instructional videos and resources that students and teachers can access that will be available beginning March 25. This [site](#) includes links to the timeline when it is published as well as where the instructional videos will be housed. It also includes specific information about what topics/standards will not be tested. The AP teachers all have this information and are making adjustments accordingly.

CHOOSE: We are working on this now with advisors and will provide updates as soon as we have any. So much needs to be considered given that many businesses are closed and we do not know what that will look like in the coming weeks. We are monitoring the situation over the next couple of weeks. We believe it is important for our seniors to have a positive capstone experience and that is our goal. For now, please do not cancel any arrangements or make any new arrangements and CHOOSE advisors will be in touch in the near future.

SATs: The May 2nd SAT has been cancelled. The June date is still scheduled at this time. Here is a link to the updates regarding that from the Collegeboard: <https://pages.collegeboard.org/natural-disasters>

Regents Exams: Although information came out regarding standardized testing being cancelled, this does not apply to the Regents yet and we are still awaiting guidance on Regents Exams.

As always please reach out with any questions.

Stay well,

Laura Dubak

CHHS Principal