

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE OF



# HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Thursday, April 9, 2020

HCS Family and Friends,

The messages of Good Friday and Easter Sunday point us to faith, hope and trust in a risen Savior! John chapters 19 and 20 chronicle the death and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples did not know on that Friday when Jesus was crucified what we know today. They didn't understand that Friday's tragedy would lead to Sunday's victory. Yet, the Scriptures tell us that even after the Lord's burial, the disciples remained close by. Through the difficult days that have been entrusted to us, it is a good and timely reminder of the importance for all of us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. It is more important than ever that we, as followers of Christ, draw near to God and shelter in Him. During this season that leaves so many concerned for the future, it can feel a lot like the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday... as we determine to seek the Lord and point others to Him, we are confident in His ability to bridge tragedy and triumph.

A few updates for you...

**WHEN WILL CLASSES RESUME ON CAMPUSES?** In light of many districts recently announcing that public school campuses will stay closed through the rest of the academic year, HCS parents have inquired about our plans. HCS remains committed to following the guidance of CDC and state health officials and will align our decisions with their recommendations. The safety of our students will always be the top priority. **As of now, HCS campuses will remain closed through May 1.** With nearly two full months left in the 2019/2020 school year, we are taking a measured approach, extending closures incrementally based on the most current information. We recognize that once the pandemic is under control, and it is safe to do so, people will want and need to get back to work, and for these families, HCS will be ready to receive students on our campuses.

**DOES THE WORK WE ARE DOING AT HOME REALLY MATTER?** YES! While many of the public schools are sending home student work packets, in many cases, those assignments will not count toward the students' required education. As we've said from the beginning, we are continuing through the grade-level curriculum and **the lessons that are planned, taught and assessed by our teachers count!** By the end of year, our students will have completed their required studies and will be prepared for the next level. We continue to be so proud of each one of them, their parents and our amazing teachers. As we continue to find innovative ways to safely connect and partner together, our students are succeeding!

**WHAT ABOUT END OF THE YEAR ACTIVITIES?** Because we understand that many of the end of the year activities are so meaningful for our students and their families, we are brainstorming ways to celebrate promotions, 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, and other cherished traditions. While we do not yet have any solid plans, please know **that these activities are important to us, too, and we are doing our best to find appropriate alternatives** should the shelter in place orders persist.

**WHAT ABOUT THE SUMMER PROGRAMS AND NEXT SCHOOL YEAR?** In an effort to be sensitive to many families that may be feeling a little overwhelmed with decisions and circumstances

impacting today, we have paused advertising for our Summer Fun Program and reregistration for next year. Please be assured, **HCS will offer the Summer Fun Program** open to students entering kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade beginning in June (or as soon as it is deemed safe), **as well as classes on all campuses for the upcoming school year!** Reenrollment for 2020/2021 is already open for those who are planning ahead. TADs applications are being accepted for those seeking tuition assistance, and registration for our Summer Fun Program will open very soon!! For additional details on any of these activities, please feel free to contact our District Office.

**HCS FAMILIES STANDING WITH US... COMMITTED TO MINISTRY INTO THE FUTURE** The reports continue to come. As many of you watch God provide and bless your families during difficult times, you are choosing to stand with us and bless others in need. **Thank you** for your support and ongoing partnership. **Thank you** for appreciating the hard work of our faculty, staff and administrators! **Thank you** for taking the time to share your stories with us. And, thank you for living out your faith in a way that inspires others to do the same!

**HCS STANDING WITH OUR FAMILIES... IN THE MIDST OF SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS** Among other proactive measures, HCS quickly and significantly reduced non-essential spending and set processes in place to respond to current families' financial crises. A top priority is to stand with parents to ensure that ongoing childcare and/or distance learning is provided to finish out the school year. We believe that these are God's schools, and as stewards of all that He has entrusted to us, **we are working to be both fiscally responsible and also financially generous.** Please continue to pray for families that are struggling and join us in thanking God for His provision and the generous support of current families and friends of HCS that believe in our mission and are choosing to stand with us and our families during this time of need.

**SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES** As more and more essential service providers are returning to work, the Emergency Childcare offered on many HCS campuses is being used. **If you know someone who needs emergency childcare,** please direct them to the HCS website for additional information on campus locations. We are determined to focus on our mission, and as we do, God continues to bless us with many opportunities to speak hope into difficult situations, standing on God's promises and pointing others to Christ!

*HCS Preschool campuses and Emergency Childcare locations will remain open over Spring Break, April 13-17.*

**WHAT'S NEXT?** Divine appointments are often disguised as inconvenient interruptions. For all of us, we are praying that we will use this time of disruption to seek and see God clearly and to be more convinced than ever before of His purpose and calling on our lives.

**We will continue to monitor the situation and prayerfully make decisions that are in the best interest of our HCS students, families, faculty and staff, and we are committed to keeping you informed along the way.** Our desire is to do all that we can to care for those within the HCS communities, while also seeking to sustain ministry impact into the future.

Please know that we are praying for you, and with you, and trusting God to guide and direct our steps! We continue to be so blessed by the grace extended to us and for the great partnerships that the Lord has established, allowing us to stand together, trusting God and supporting each other, all for His glory! Shelter in Him and be safe!

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him,  
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

