

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE OF



HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

June 16, 2020

HCS Family and Friends,

Our nation is hurting. During a time when we would traditionally be celebrating the end of one school year and its many accomplishments, looking toward summer, a slower pace and opportunities to be rested and refreshed before embarking on the start of a new school year, we find ourselves in a very different place. First, there is the coronavirus. A pandemic. Its global impact was initially unforeseen and continued to grow and escalate before our eyes. As the COVID-19 health crisis began to show hints of improvement, another, possibly more devastating national disaster erupted – the pandemic of racism and racial-related tension and dissension.

It is always right to do the right thing. But, sometimes, the right thing is difficult to discern. Unlike COVID-19, the series of egregious injustices that have unfolded before us in the news and in social media over the past several weeks are not new. They are the result of cultural and spiritual warfare that has existed in America for far too long. However, recent events have illuminated the trauma and pain of these inequalities that can no longer be ignored. We cannot simply look the other way. Outrage is not enough. God requires much more of us. As the people of God, the love of God must compel us to actively pray and seek ways to make today the beginning of something better, all for God's glory.

The Bible very clearly tells us that God sees and values color and diversity (Galatians 3). We were created differently, by design! As a Christian school system, we aspire to be a catalyst for the grace and truth of God (John 1:14) that can heal the wounds of racism and create a vibrant culture on campuses that is defined by our ability to embrace diversity, promote inclusion, experience empathy and ultimately share God's love. Now more than ever, it is critical that we come together, prayerfully seeking the Lord, examining ourselves both as individuals and also within the context of our school communities. It is our desire to make a difference; HCS is committed to taking the time to educate ourselves, and to engage in conversations from a position of humility; listening to learn. We must also grapple with our responsibility to teach and model for our children what it means to embrace and celebrate our God-ordained differences. We do not have all of the answers, but we are ready to wrestle with the questions.

As we look to the upcoming school year, we are busily gathering data, surveying staff and parents, and exploring options for school ministry in the Fall. The first day of the 2020/2021 school is confirmed for Monday, August 24 (preschool) and Tuesday, August 25 (for elementary and junior high). **Within the next few weeks, our school families will receive another update.** In it, we will share detailed plans outlining what you can expect on the HCS campuses for 2020/2021. These plans will include: our instruction delivery model(s), health and safety protocols on campus, programming at each level (preschool through 8th grade), strategies for improved communication, plans for addressing the social-emotional needs of children, and progress on the development of diversity-related initiatives.

Over the course of the past few months, we have been thanking you for choosing Heights and for standing with us. As we look to the next chapter, let's determine to stand together for what is right, rise up and shine the light of Christ into a lost and hurting world.

*"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

MICAH 6:8

- Kelly Beckert, Superintendent of Schools