

A COVID 19 UPDATE FROM HSHMC CEO

Dear HSHMC Families,

Although we have tried to keep you informed regarding our COVID-19 response, I wanted to add my own personal remarks reviewing the actions we have taken and the plans that are in progress.

As you know HSHMC closed its campus on Monday, March 16, 2020, We made the announcement in concert with San Diego County Public Health and Superintendents from school districts across San Diego County. We informed both the San Diego Unified School District Board and our HSHMC Board of Directors by email of our decision to move forward following plans adopted by San Diego County, San Diego Unified School District, San Diego County Public Health, and the Governor.

On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom announced the closure of all California schools and his assumption that they would be physically closed for the remainder of the school year. He announced schools should continue to plan and provide virtual educational enrichment and learning opportunities for the remainder of the year. As a result, even though we were closed, we began to roll out several initiatives. Some of these are highlighted below:

1. **Sufficient Technology and Access:** We continue to reach out to every family to assess technology needs and barriers. We have a team of staff following up with families who need computers, Internet access and/or other resources to effectively access all of the programs and services we are, and are planning to offer. We have distributed well over 160 computer devices and are assisting families with acquiring Internet access.
2. **Clearing Incompletes:** We identified students with incompletes and missing assignments and created a support structure and staffing to tutor and mentor them. We have cleared numerous incompletes and a majority of our students remain actively engaged in completing their work.
3. **Supporting College Courses:** Although we are closed, Cuyamaca Community College remains open, offering all of their courses on line. We have created a support structure and staffing to successfully support all HSHMC students enrolled in college classes at Cuyamaca.
4. **Special Education Supports and Services:** We have sent two written notices to families with students receiving special education services ensuring equitable access to a wide range of enrichment, catch-up and keep-up supports and services.
5. **Other Enrichment:** We also launched an exciting and quite popular enrichment English language arts program for students who were seeking additional ways to stay engaged in learning with us.

On March 25, 2020, the San Diego Unified School District announced plans to remain physically closed for the remainder of the school year, but to reopen its schools virtually on April 27, 2020. Many other schools have announced similar plans and we remained committed to act in concert with the San Diego Unified School District. We immediately began meeting with our instructional teams to asses a viable structure for virtually opening school and supporting students to complete their Spring 2020 classes. We have taken the following actions:

1. On April 8, I informed our Board by email that we would also publically announce plans consistent with those of the San Diego Unified School District by remaining physically closed unto June 9, 2020, but virtually reopening April 27, 2020 with online programming in order to

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support students to complete their Spring semester courses. The Board was also informed by email that our regularly scheduled May 7, 2020 Board meeting will be held consistent with the Governor's order allowing tele-board meetings. We will post details on our website regarding this meeting in order to allow public participation and access. The agenda will review all activities occurring and planned since the COVID 19 school closure, including but not limited to our distance learning, online program, essential technologies support, services to specialized populations, and Spring 2020 grading policies.

2. Our math, English, History and Science teacher teams have been regularly meeting with instructional leaders to design online instructional units that will be offered between April 27 and June 9, 2020. Plans include a week-by-week structure of posting and live classes, assignments and available tutoring and supports.
3. The first in a series of family letters was posted on our website and mailed the week of March 13 announcing our April 27, 2020 virtual opening.
4. We continue to plan for our virtual opening as well as summer school and fall 2020. We will be updating the Board of all these actions and plans on May 7 at our tele-board meeting.

This covers a small portion of what we have been busy doing in response to this most troubling and unprecedented time. Every action we have taken has been made in the best interest of our students. There is still a lot we do not know and we are prepared to be responsive to whatever is around the next corner. But this is what I do know. HSHMC has a most incredible staff, with whom I have the great fortune to work. HSHMC members are juggling a wide range of childcare, elder care, and health and economic responsibilities. And, in addition, our entire staff is doing everything possible to contact families and students to tutor, mentor, and design programs and classes. I also know how strong and caring our entire community is. And that community includes each of you. We are there for you and with you. We can only imagine the challenges and hardships each of you are facing. Please know we care and we will do whatever it takes to keep high quality teaching and learning alive. And we will continue to do whatever it takes to earn the privilege of being your educational partner.

Stay Well, Wash Your Hands,

Dr. Ian Pumpian
CEO, Health Sciences High School and Middle College, Inc.