

March 23, 2020

CHS Families,

Good afternoon. I hope you and your families are doing well during this ever-changing and challenging time. The CHS staff is thinking of you often, and it is tough to be away from one another. We rely on relationships and community at CHS, so a virtual world presents a whole new experience with connections. And, we are so strong as a school community -- I'm so confident in our ability to adapt and collaborate, be flexible and creative, and support our students at the highest level possible.

It's been wonderful to have more family experiences, outside activities, and overall down time to read, watch movies and exercise. On Saturday, my kids left our house at 11:30 a.m. on their bikes and did not return until 5 p.m. They apparently rode to all parts of town, went on park trails and waved to friends as they went by their homes. Other than our ability to track their location via GPS, it was 1985 all over again. It was awesome.

I am approaching this time with positivity. The many examples of goodness and gratitude have been uplifting. I tweeted out this 5-minute video yesterday, and I share it with you now. It's titled [Rooted in Love](#). It's from Mike Smith, who visited CHS several years back. He connected deeply with our community during his performance, and his message resonated with our students. His message in the video is simply outstanding. It was energizing -- give it a watch.

And....I approach this time with a deep understanding of our new reality and the impact it is having on our daily lives -- and the wonderings about our future experiences. From an empathetic standpoint, everyone's experience is different and deeply personal. We truly cannot know everyone's story. But we do know all are impacted.

We are all balancing work at home, spending time with our families, and caring for loved ones. We carry the worry for others -- and we carry our own worries. It's a lot. We are resetting our mindsets to handle schedules, routines and expectations that require flexibility, new learning, and new thinking. It's a lot. Students are wondering about classes, events and special experiences. It's all understandable and a lot. And it requires a ton of patience.

We are doing well. We will get through this.

From the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of all of the CHS staff, I am so thankful for our CHS families, our students and our school community. We are so grateful to work on behalf of you at CHS.

Please see below for the work ahead and I hope it provides some helpful updates. You can anticipate daily updates for some of the following matters. Be well.

Sincerely,



Derek Folan
Principal

The Work Ahead and Updates

March 23-April 6

Connections, Relationships and Google Classroom

Relationships and connections are the core of our classrooms. The same is true for a virtual experience. So all teachers were asked to reach out to their students on Google Classroom, offering messages of hello and reassurance. The social connections that exist in a classroom are so important, and mean a lot to students. ***Thus, all students should visit their Google Classrooms for their scheduled second semester courses and check in with their teachers.***

Enrichment Opportunities

As outlined in the district letter to families, staff will be posting enrichment opportunities for students to read independently, engage in skill-based activities that allow for creation, analysis and problem-solving, and time for writing and feedback. Based on my discussions with staff, there are a number of creative opportunities posted, including choice board, video challenges and personalized paths. Students, on their own, are always seeking personalized projects, creating videos and valuing choice!

These opportunities are for enrichment and to keep the mind actively engaged. In alignment with the MA Commissioner of Education expectations and the district letter, there are no new assessments, graded assignments or new content -- while schools are closed through April 6.

Also, each staff member has posted office hours (1 hour per day), allowing for students to engage in real time through Google Classroom or email. The same is true for parents/guardians.

Term 3 Make-Up Work

If students had make-up work or retake opportunities from Term 3, they are encouraged to communicate with their teachers about that work. It may be completed now and turned in for credit. It's a great opportunity to get caught up.

AP classes

The information regarding AP Courses and Exams changes almost daily. However, AP teachers may review and promote the AP online modules and learning opportunities. Visit the www.collegeboard.com for its most recent communication about exams and resources. Everything is subject to change and it probably will. Until then, I encourage all students enrolled in AP classes to engage in these resources.

We received an update today that will be published on the [CHS Guidance Blog](#) in the morning. It provides some clarity about the adjustments to AP exams, timelines, administration of AP exams, and online modules for AP exam prep.

Class of 2020

Seniors, I'm thinking of you! No one could have anticipated this ending or your experiences for your senior year. **So, what about graduation?** As you know, graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 5. Much like other valued special ceremonies, we are monitoring matters closely and we will keep you updated. For all of our senior events and celebrations, we are trying our best to maintain our schedule.

College decisions -- During this week, you will see a Guidance Blog that outlines where you can look to be informed about updates and any adjustments around college decisions.

Scholarships -- The deadline for scholarship applications has been moved to Thursday, April 16. (The website will be updated shortly.) Seniors, it is a good opportunity to work on these packets. Here is the link for the [scholarship applications](#).

Externships

The Senior Externships are in flux right now because the business and community partners are working from home. I am meeting with Mr. Amico (virtually) to review our options. We plan on announcing Senior Externship information before the end of the week.

MCAS

The Federal Department of Education is waiving the requirement of all states to test students, if and when state departments submit a request. We are waiting to hear from our Commissioner and the Mass Department of Education for their guidance. Stay informed by checking the [Mass Department of Education website](#). At the very top, there is a link to all COVID19 updates.

MIAA and Spring Sports

Spring sports are scheduled to start April 27. See [Canton Athletics blog](#) and the [MIAA website](#) for all of the details.

Social Events

All of our social events and senior events are in May and June, so we are trying to preserve them as much as possible. Everything, again, depends on information that comes out over the next two weeks. We have been in touch with all of our venues, and we are trying to be as prepared as possible.

We had to cancel Mamma Mia and our performing arts concerts. As a result, we would love to revisit them in May and June as well. We are doing our best to give our students moments to shine!

Course Selection

We started course selection in February and we are going to use this time to reconnect about that process. You will be seeing a [Guidance Blog](#) post this week about bringing closure to the course selection process for the upcoming year.

Communication

Questions are good. If you need any help or clarity, please don't hesitate to connect with your child's teacher or the CHS Leadership Team.

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