



Closure of Campus to the Public starting March 17th

Suspension of On-Site Classes, Emergency Remote Classroom Program March 23rd through *April 6th

March 16, 2020

Dear Harmony Community,

The last 5 days have seen unprecedented actions to address the COVID-19 epidemic. These actions are part of “social distancing” intending to slow the transmission of the virus and reduce the number of cases that would require medical intervention at one time. By spreading out infections, or preventing them altogether, we ensure that hospitals will have the capacity to serve patients with severe symptoms. Effective social distancing protocols requires closing of public venues and events to restrict communication of the virus. Over time, the protocol

Though closing a school campus to the public and suspending on-site classes causes extensive hardship for families, a greater burden would be our failure to act to contain an epidemic that threatens the lives of our family, friends, and neighbors. Therefore, Harmony Union School District, in collaboration with the Department of Health Services, will close its physical campus to the public as of March 17th. Upon end of spring break, **Harmony will suspend on-site classes from March 23rd to at least April 6th and implement Remote Classroom Activities for students during these emergency conditions.** All services that can shift to a remote collaboration model will do so, while in-person services that cannot reasonably be maintained at a distance, will be suspended.

- All assemblies, public events, and field trips scheduled for the month of April are cancelled. The status of events scheduled in May will be determined by April 6th.
- Until further notice, all public meetings, including meetings of the school board, will be held via teleconference. Agendas and instructions on how to join the teleconference will be provided in advance.
- All staff are directed to remote activities unless authorized by the superintendent to conduct duties on campus.

Harmony is scheduled to reopen the campus with regulated public access and resume on-site classes on April 6th. However, given the trajectory of the epidemic globally, and observing examples of public health response in other nations, we can anticipate that our campus closure ***may be extended**. As soon as we know more, we will communicate this information to our community.

Remote Classroom

Remote Classroom Activities will begin the week of March 23rd. Remote Classroom activities will be provided through email, internet portals, and teleconferencing. Teachers will facilitate activities for each class using online tools including Zoom Teleconferencing, YouTube, Google Classroom, Lexia, IXL, and Acellus. Details of each day's activities will be provided in advance to families by their teachers electronically. Information about the daily routine, details about how to conduct specific activities, and how your child can access them will be provided in the daily outline. Faculty have been working rapidly to develop and successfully implement this program under emergency conditions. We are grateful for their creativity, ingenuity, and dedication to our children.

Internet Access for Remote Classroom

Some families may have limited access to internet or electronic devices at home. If this is the case for you and your child, we have additional resources that we can provide including Chromebooks and cellular hotspots that may be loaned to families. Landline internet support is also available as several companies have pledged to assist families secure internet connections during emergency conditions. If you need assistance with landline internet access, or want to request a Chromebook or hotspot, please report your need to the office so that we may help identify a solution; (707) 874-1205.

Special Remote Services

Some special services will be temporarily interrupted. However, special education staff will continue to monitor student engagement with the Remote Classroom Program and will be available to respond to inquiries and requests for assistance. Upon resumption of normal school session, IEP teams can meet to consider if additional services are needed.

Food Service during Campus Closure

Harmony will continue Food Service in a modified form in the event school is closed. Our food service staff is committed to providing nourishing meals for our children if at all possible. Meals will be distributed, with appropriate precaution, at an offsite location in Occidental. Further details will follow. ***In addition, fresh vegetables from our garden will be available to the community shortly. Details on distribution will follow.***

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Communications

Please check email daily for new information. Also, please visit our district YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDFof4yQOQooCM_N3YvE3kw) for "State of the School" updates and shared content from our teachers, guest presenters, and

families during the closure. Coming together in community, even when separated by a crisis such as this, can salve our troubles and steel our resolve.

Update on Current Conditions

County Superintendents met with the Interim County Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase to catch up on recent developments. Though testing had been woefully inadequate during the initial weeks of the epidemic, it appears testing is now coming on-line that will help discern the actual prevalence of the virus in Sonoma County. Over the weekend the first local community transmission case was identified, and this has elevated the county response to the epidemic. Though this was the first community spread case confirmed through testing, it is reasonable to consider that community transmission has been occurring in Sonoma County.

As announced earlier today, 6 major bay area counties including San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Marin, Contra Costa and Alameda were assigned SHELTER IN PLACE orders. Such an order requires citizens to stay at home unless they conduct activities that are exempted. More information on this order can be found on the Marin County Health and Human Services webpage at: <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org>. It is likely that Sonoma County will join in this declaration in the near future.

Our situation is unprecedented in modern times. The economic fallout is sure to impact our local community. In light of this, the Governor has announced special dispensation for unemployment caused by the epidemic. If such a situation occurs for you or anyone you know, please refer to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency webpage at <https://www.labor.ca.gov/coronavirus2019/> or the Employment Development Department's FAQ at https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019/faqs.htm.

Our mental and physical health is under stress in crisis such as this, particularly under isolating conditions. If you experience hardship and could use assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Staff are at the ready to help students and families secure the assistance they need to make it through this crisis.

I am hopeful that measures are now being implemented that will improve the ability of our health care providers to meet the need of patients with severe symptoms. The health of our community health is a collective effort. We truly are dependent upon each other for our well-being. Thank you for your efforts and support.

Sincerely,



Matthew Morgan
Superintendent - Principal