



## Closure of Campus through End of School Year

### IMPORTANT Program updates and Service Announcements

April 9, 2020

Dear Harmony Community,

In alignment with our sister schools across California, Harmony Union is suspending on-campus classes through the end of the school year. We will continue to provide remote classroom activities, refining the implementation as we move through April and into May.

- For Clarity; All assemblies, public events, and field trips are cancelled.
- Until further notice, all public meetings, including meetings of the school board, will be held via teleconference. Agendas and instructions on how to join public teleconferences will be provided in advance.
- The physical campus is **CLOSED** to all recreational activities including hiking and use of the field and blacktop, by order of the Sonoma County Department of Public Health

Please read each element below describing important logistics and emergency services, as well as information on educational goals and protocols for Remote Classroom Activities.

#### ■ Pickup of Student Materials, Supplies and Belongings: April 14 and 15

All student belongings have been safely gathered from their classrooms and will be available for pickup Tuesday, April 14th and Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>. All items have been placed into labelled grocery bags and laid out in the gymnasium with ample space to identify and retrieve your student's bag. To ensure social distancing, we will stagger pickup times according to the last name of the child:

##### Tuesday April 14th

9:00 – 10:30 AM

10:30 – 12:00 PM

12:00 – 1:30 PM

1:30 – 3:00 PM

##### Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>

9AM – 3PM

##### Child\* LAST name starts with:

A-G

H-M

N-S

T-Z

General Pickup for any family that could not attend scheduled time on Tuesday

*\* If a family has multiple children with different last names, choose the preferred time*

**Materials include student workbooks and supplies that students will NEED to have in order to complete assignments during remote classroom activities.** Also, if you need tech equipment, including Chromebooks or hotspots, please notify the school. These items can be included in the bag for pickup.

#### ■ Parenting While Sheltered: Parent Support Circles – Thursdays 7pm-8:30pm

Zoom sessions are held EVERY Thursday 7-8:30pm. We will be joined weekly by a guest presenter to discuss parenting strategies and educational support while sheltering. Come share ideas and swap tips with fellow parents and guardians. The recurring Zoom Link is here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yx2k6mya>

## ■ Remote Recess for KIDS!!! Starting Wednesday, April 15

We will be holding Zoom REMOTE RECESS sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:00 to 12:30pm. Remote Recess will be hosted by our Instructional Assistants who typically supervise recess at snack and lunch. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with each other outside of remote classroom meetings. Grades are assigned to different recess zoom meetings: K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8. Further information, and links to the appropriate Zoom REMOTE RECESS, will be forwarded shortly. The first Remote Recess is scheduled for Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## ■ Internet Access for Families

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 Education and Learning Support Services

Special education staff will continue to monitor student engagement with the Remote Classroom Program and have been assigned to each student to provide regular responsive intervention support. Upon resumption of normal school session, IEP teams can meet to consider if compensatory time for missed services is necessary.

## ■ Social & Emotional Support for Children and Families

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. Trained staff are available to consult with both parents and children. Please contact your class teacher who can ensure your request is forwarded to our support team.

## ■ Food Service during Campus Closure

Harmony is continuing to provide breakfast and lunch service from 10am to 12pm at the Occidental Community Center Monday through Friday. Our food service staff is committed to providing nourishing meals for our children. Any school aged child can claim a lunch, even children that are enrolled in a different district. This is true for Harmony families that don't live in the local area...they too can go to a local district food distribution site and claim a meal at that location, regardless of their district of enrollment.

In addition to breakfast and lunch service, our garden team is harvesting and bagging fresh vegetables that are distributed every Tuesday and Friday at the Occidental Community Center. Please note that social distancing must be observed at the Community Center Pickup.

## ■ Communications

Please check email daily for new information. Also, please visit our district YouTube channel ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDFof4yQOQooCM\\_N3YvE3kw](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.

## ■ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation

Special planning is underway to ensure an honorable and joyful graduation for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders that is compatible with social distancing and shelter in place guidelines. More information will be available soon.

## ■ Unemployment Support

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 Employment Development Department's FAQ at [https://www.edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/coronavirus-2019/faqs.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019/faqs.htm).

## ■ Closure of Campus for Recreation & Hiking purposes

All school playgrounds and public parks are closed under the Governor's current executive order until further notice. This includes the Harmony campus, field, playgrounds, nature trail, parking lots, garden area or any open access area. Only essential staff is allowed on campus, unless permission is granted by the Superintendent

## ■ Sharing the Bounty: Plant Starts from Harmony

When families pick up student materials on Tuesday and Wednesday, Krista and Annie will be offering plant starts for folks to add to their gardens. Vegetable plant starts will be available near the garden entrance. Please observe social distancing when picking up plants. Limit 6 per family so that everyone gets to take some home! Thank you to Krista and Annie for providing these plants to our community.

## REMOTE CLASSROOM PROGRAM DETAILS

### ■ Goals and Objectives

We are adjusting our expectations for academic progress and shifting our attention of the Remote Classroom experience because of the COVID response. Our priority goal is maintaining the social and emotional well-being of students in the midst of a crisis. Our objective is to maintain the **rhythm** and **routine** our children experience through familiar academic activities. Ultimately, **reassurance** for our students is important at managing their anxiety.

For academic goals, our primary focus is maintaining engagement with course content, maintaining academic progress, and inspiring students to extend their learning through choice activities they can pursue independently on their own at home.

### ■ Expectations and Workload

Given the emergency nature of our crisis, we are calibrating our expectations for student work, and our own curriculum goals. Though we have scaled back our ambitions learning targets for Spring, it is essential for our students to continue to inhabit the rhythm and gentle responsibility of school life. Sticking to familiar routines supports the well-being of our children and helps them stay engaged and current with content in class. It is also important to note, though the state suspended in class instruction, compulsory participation in school has not been suspended, thus, all families need to continue to participate in remote classroom activities. Most grades have designed their Remote Classroom experiences to include **PRIORITY** activities as well as **CHOICE** activities.

- **PRIORITY** Activities are those that require student attendance. Generally, this consists of attending the ZOOM classroom meetings. Special consideration is made for families with limited internet access in the event that Zoom conferencing is found to be unusable.
- **CORE** Activities are lessons and experiences that are to be handled as typical "assignments" that will be used by the teacher to measure participation and proficiency of the target task. Sometimes teachers may provide a MENU of Core Activities options to choose from, but whatever is chosen, must then be completed to confirm participation
- **EXTENSION** Activities are projects and other fun diversions to extend the learning for students and provide some structure and focus throughout the rest of the child's day. These activities can be pursued or not, depending on your home schedule, and your child's interest and stamina.

Generally, the following guidelines for Total School Engagement Time is listed below. This time is **INCLUSIVE** of all school activities, including Priority Activities like Zoom meetings and Core Activities such as reading or math assignments. These time guidelines do NOT include Extension activities, which we leave to parents and student to determine how far and deep to take these activities. Also, please note that some students may complete activities faster or slower than peers, hence there will be a range. In addition, daily activities will vary from day to day and thus some days may have more time assigned than others.

Grade	Hours
TK – K	1.5
1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1.5 - 2
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	2 - 3
5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	3.5 - 4

If your child is spending more time than expected and expressing distress, please contact your class teacher for support. Each student’s needs are different, please let us know how your child is responding to the workload.

### ■ Participation & Grading

During the spring trimester, all student grades will be “held harmless”, such that no reduction in grades or marks will be noted for the spring trimester. However, student participation and completion of Core Activities is documented by teachers to assist in assigning credit completion at the end of the term. “No Credit” or an “Incomplete” will be assigned for students who do not participate regularly in Priority and Core Activities.

### ■ Learning & Counseling Support for Children

Our Student Support Team is providing direct tutoring and counseling support to students in need. If your child would benefit from this direct staff support, please contact: [studentsupport@harmonyusd.org](mailto:studentsupport@harmonyusd.org)

### ■ Learning Gaps

Due to the stress of the crisis, and the inability to replicate the effectiveness of in-class instruction with a fledgling remote classroom program, we anticipate students will not make the same academic progress that could otherwise have been made had classes remained in session. We have developed a supplementary instructional support program for students to utilize during remote classroom activities, but even then, progress will not be the same, as the scope of instruction is shifted in response to the trauma some students are experiencing. Therefore, Harmony USD recognizes that there will be learning gaps experienced in the spring 2020 trimester that will impact our instruction in subsequent school years as we work to “catch up” students to the typical grade level instruction. The Fall trimester of the 2020-2021 school year will include some content from Spring of 2019-2020 in order to ensure these learning gaps do not persist.

Thank you for your efforts to support your children and our faculty and staff during this difficult time of transition and emergency programs. Your feedback is essential to the improvement of our emergency Remote Classroom program. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

The health of our community is a collective effort. We are dependent upon each other for our own well-being. Thank you for your efforts and support.

Sincerely,



Matthew Morgan  
Superintendent - Principal