



March 24, 2020

Dear HGCS Families,

I would like to personally **thank you for your hard work** in keeping education moving forward for your families. The emails, texts, and words of encouragement that we have received from you have been positively overwhelming for the staff here at Hickory Grove. Our team has put in many extra hours to make this form of education, not merely a positive experience, but an advantageous one for our students in ways that we would never have imagined.

Mecklenburg County issued a “shelter in place” order beginning on Thursday at 8:00 AM extending until midnight on April 16, 2020. **During that time Hickory Grove Christian School will not be open to pick up supplies.**

With the governor’s most recent executive order, all public schools in the state will be closed until May 15, 2020. Even with this date, the ongoing picture for Hickory Grove Christian School is still not crystal clear. And, there may still be other executive orders and changes going forward, but to the best of our ability, we are probably on safe ground to assume that we will keep in place the following dates:

- **In keeping with the plans of nearly every other private school in and around Mecklenburg County, we will continue in an online format through April 9, 2020.**
- **We will keep April 10, 2020, as a holiday (Good Friday) and will keep Easter Break, which extends from April 13-19, 2020.**
- **The school will close on May 21, 2020.**

A decision of whether to continue in the online format will be made during the week of our Easter Break. Then, if significant changes have not occurred at that time, it may be necessary to continue in the online format for a longer period.

Some decisions have not entirely been ironed out and probably will not become apparent until later. These include decisions regarding testing, prom, the musical, and graduation, to name a few. We will continue to follow government orders, and we do not want to make hasty decisions and commitments until we know our future status.

No timing is good for a situation such as this. **Thankfully, we are in a much better place than many of our counterparts in the area.** Our school year started earlier than most schools, thereby having us through a majority of our schedule when the pandemic occurred. Our Spring Break and planned dates for testing were still out ahead of us as well, which means most content would have been completed anyway. Couple these occurrences with a staff that has been preparing for online elements for several years put HGCS in an enviable position. These factors are why we have experienced the tremendous success that you have seen in the last week. As we move forward, we ask for your fervent prayers as we face, together, the days ahead. Further, you will certainly be in our prayers.

Jimmie Quesinberry, Jr., Ed.D.