

March 14, 2020

As of 4:30 on Saturday afternoon, the Governor of North Carolina instituted an executive order closing all public K-12 schools beginning Monday for at least two weeks. Although this mandate does not technically include private schools, it does include gatherings of 100 or more. As we have mentioned in previous emails, our staff has been preparing for this inevitability for quite some time. **Hickory Grove Christian School will be closed from March 16-27, 2020.**

The Early Education Center will operate as follows: Full-time Child Care will operate on a regular schedule to accommodate working parents. We will remain open as long as there is no closing order in accordance with operating regulations mandated by the NC Division of Child Development. **Half-Day Preschool at both our Harris and Mallard Creek campuses will be closed.** Half-day preschool staff will be scheduled to assist with childcare staffing if necessary.

Although we are already prepared to deliver lessons remotely, we plan on using **Monday as a teacher workday** to further enhance these lessons in anticipation of a full-scale roll-out on Tuesday morning. Parents will receive an email from their child's teacher sometime on Monday in anticipation of the Tuesday roll-out. Also, students and parents will be able to come to the school on Monday to pick up student materials such as textbooks and Chromebooks. Teacher materials may not be ready until Tuesday.

Our teachers who serve in the Student Center for Advancement (SCA) are prepared to continue assisting their students. This past week they began preparing students for how they will interact with them during a school closing. **Dr. Similton and teachers who serve SCA will reach out directly to our SCA parents on Monday.**

We realize this closure poses extreme hardships on many of our families -- with the education of your children being only one of the many. We want to alleviate at least one of your worries: **we will work with you to the best of our abilities to help make sure that your child's education is continuous and not a source of angst for your family.** To help you and your child, our staff will be available during this difficult time to answer questions via email and phone.

To help with this transition, we are sending out a [Google Form](#) for parents to voice possible **educational challenges** they might have with this new mode of instruction (i.e., WiFi, device availability, etc.). Please be patient with us as we delve into these uncharted waters. Education will look different, and we are doing all that we can to make sure that education quality is not compromised during this time.

I realize that this school closure and the new mode of educational delivery will be a challenge for our families, teachers, and staff, but I believe that as we work together, we can and will be successful. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmie L. Duesenberg, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jimmie Quesinberry, Ed.D.