



WAYLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear WHS parents, guardians, and students:

I extend my warmest greetings to you amid the backdrop of these unsettled and strange times. I speak for the entire high school staff when I share how deeply we miss being at school with students and being engaged in our high-energy and fulfilling work with them. We miss hearing laughter in the halls, discussing and debating ideas in the classroom, and enjoying the vibrant learning community we have created. We cannot wait for school to reopen so we can reconnect with everyone personally.

Hopefully you have had an opportunity to read the letter sent yesterday by Dr. Unobskey that described our district's approach to teaching and learning during this three-week closure. In this letter, I will reiterate major topics in his letter and then address more WHS-specific issues related to our students' ongoing educational opportunities.

Teaching and Learning during School Closure

General Guidelines. As Dr. Unobskey described in his letter, the district will be providing ongoing access to learning opportunities to our students during this three-week closure. Due to guidance from the state Department of Education related to equity and access, teachers will not be presenting students with new, required curriculum content. Also, the work is technically not mandatory and is not graded. However, **we recognize the vital importance of continuing to learn, think, and create when it comes to maintaining social emotional health.** Especially during a time that feels so strange, uncertain, and even scary, we want our students to find security and well-being through staying connected with their teachers and continuing their learning. Therefore, we urge our students to engage seriously in these learning opportunities.

High School "Enrichment Days." At the high school, teachers are creating enrichment learning opportunities that are connected to the themes and essential topics of their individual courses and that will provide both structure and engagement for students. Some teachers have already reached out to their students, but the official start date of these "enrichment days" is tomorrow, **March 19**. Teachers are planning for approximately 30 to 40 minutes of daily enrichment per course. Listening and responding to podcasts, reflecting on current events, exploring virtual historical sites, critically examining propaganda, and conducting internet research on scientific topics are some examples of activities that teachers are developing. Most learning opportunities will occur asynchronously -- that is, students and teachers will not be "meeting" together at a particular time, and students may work on the activities at their

own pace -- but teachers may set up virtual meetings with small groups of students when desirable and necessary.

Special Education, Guidance, and English Language Learners. Special education liaisons and guidance counselors will stay in contact with their students during this time to support their learning and emotional health. Our department leaders of guidance and special education will meet with the administration at least twice weekly to discuss students of concern and establish strategies for staying connected with them. A separate letter from Richard Whitehead, Director of Student Services, was sent this morning to families with students in our special education program describing in greater detail the ongoing support for our students on IEPs. Students who are English language learners will be supported by our ELL teacher in coordination with their content teachers and the district coordinator for EL services, Rachel Scott.

Other WHS-Specific Issues

What if students have a long-term paper, project, or assignment that was originally due during the school closure?

During the school closure, students may receive formative feedback from their teachers on any long-term assignments. However, no assignments will be collected during the school closure that will result in a grade.

Can students turn in late or missing work during the school closure?

If students have outstanding work that was due before the school closure, this would be a good time to complete and submit it. Students may submit overdue and makeup work in accordance with their teachers' late policy.

What about “enrichment days” for AP courses? What is going on with AP tests?

We recognize that the accelerated, standardized pace and coverage of AP courses makes adhering to our state-recommended guideline of “no new, required curriculum content” particularly complicated and even agonizing. AP teachers will be reviewing past content and preparing extension and enrichment opportunities for students that will continue to serve them well in preparation for the AP tests. On March 20, [the College Board](#) is expected to issue some more guidance to AP instructors and coordinators about the timeline and format for testing. Thus far, they have indicated flexibility in the dates for testing based on lost instructional time. We will keep families apprised of any new developments as we learn about them.

What is happening with MCAS?

The Commissioner of Education has not yet issued detailed guidance for districts regarding MCAS testing for 9th and 10th graders. (The 10th grade ELA was originally scheduled for March 24 and 25.) We will keep you posted.

Will third quarter be extended? What will happen to third quarter grades?

The department leadership and administrative team are in close communication about whether to extend third quarter and how to factor in the school closure when it comes to students' year-end grades. At this point, we have a number of possible paths that we have discussed, all of which have our students' very best interests in mind and that will require more time and information to examine fully. Whatever decision is made will be

based on what is fair and reasonable for students given this three-week hiatus from the school building. Like other issues, we will update you on our thinking in the near future.

What about college admissions?

Our guidance department has already sent out an email update to juniors and seniors related to the world of college admissions and how it has been impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Please be on the lookout for these messages as information evolves. The [latest update is here](#).

Is the scheduling process still underway?

Yes. You may recall that just as our school closure began, we were preparing to open Home Access Center and invite students and families to review course recommendations and enter electives. We have slightly delayed this process, but we hope to stay more or less on track during our school closure. This Friday, March 20, you will receive a detailed letter from me outlining this process, and we will open up HAC to students and families. Students will also receive a video from Mr. Gass and Ms. Cole that explains what they need to be thinking about and doing to keep our scheduling process moving. Although we have established new deadlines, we will be flexible during this process because we understand that adhering to these dates may be difficult for some families.

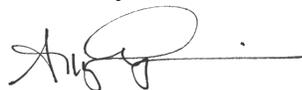
What about Prom, Senior Show, and other major events?

We know that students are feeling anxiety and sadness related to treasured events that are traditionally held in the spring, such as Prom and Senior Show. We have been in touch with leaders of these events and will stay connected with them and class advisors as we receive more guidance from state and federal health agencies regarding limits on large gatherings of people and social distancing. While obviously we will adhere to all rules and restrictions, we also want to work with students and advisors to arrive at alternate plans when possible.

Hopefully this letter has addressed some of your questions about the coming weeks. Please feel free to reach out to me, Ms. Cole, and Mr. Gass about any of these larger issues, and I encourage you to also reach out to your student's teachers and guidance counselor for more specific information. Especially at this time, we are committed to maintaining a high level of clarity and communication with all of you.

Please take good care and stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Allyson Mizoguchi
Principal