

Dear L-H Families:

As we finish our Week #1 of our Contingency Plan, I just wanted to take a moment to celebrate the following:

- Last Thursday, 3/12/2020 - we were advised of school closure in order to ensure the health and well-being of our school community - all before 3:00 dismissal.
- Because your L-H teachers and their colleagues across the District spent their professional afternoon on Monday 3/9/2020 planning for virtual learning and also paper-based applications - we were very well prepared for this new adventure. Credit also belongs to our District Administration who was responsive in adjusting this professional plan to allow grade levels to focus on this major task.
- The Cast and Crew of Shrek Jr. were notified directly after school of the need to postpone production - these students, their Director, Producers and parent volunteers who invested so much handled this news with such "class" and support for each other. As I said to them - we will look forward to the time when we can bring Shrek Jr. to the L-H Stage - so keep practicing!
- Our Main Office Staff - Mrs. Downey and Mrs. Akian remained late into Thursday afternoon to assist with families coming to pick up materials, coordinate resources and be on call to support/clarify any needs. This support was invaluable.
- Our Custodial Staff - Mr. Nash, Mrs. Rushton, Mr. Wells - they are on the "physical frontline" of this situation - ensuring that they, in tandem with the Building and Grounds direction, are keeping L-H clean, sanitized, and ready to welcome back our community when the time comes.
- This Monday - we began our Virtual Learning platform - understandably, this was new for all of us (students, parents, teachers, Principal). Our teachers greeted their classes with promising messages, an outpouring of support, responsiveness to the rapid-pace of questions and inquiries coming from the home setting. Each inquiry addressed, each issue resolved, and each with a gentle and nurturing approach. Each day, found greater fluidity with the application of this new format. Bring It On Week #2! Thank You Teachers!
- Our parents have been highly supportive - your understanding of the uniqueness of this situation, our need to follow District protocols to ensure consistency across buildings (including teacher expectations that need to be manageable and reasonable), and your support of your child in the home setting as they work online or in a paper-based resource, is invaluable. You, like our teachers, are also doing this while taking care of your families, navigating directions at the local/state/federal level - and simply trying to "be" in a time that is unique for us all. Thank you Parents!
- Our students - I am a co-teacher in each Google Classroom. This affords me the ability to not only post material out to students, but also check in on assignments and engage in the "streams" of posts between teachers and students, and students to students. This is where L-H has truly shined. I have been witness to your children "lifting each other up," sharing messages of encouragement, sharing how much they miss their classmates, and keeping a Growth Mindset! It has been wonderful, simply wonderful.

As we close out this week, I am also sharing one of my "posts" to the students. Please read it carefully, as it reviews some of the foundational expectations of this new learning environment (but the expectations have not changed as you will see).

Your teachers will be finishing up the day with their communicated monitoring times for assignments. Then - it's the weekend. We will see you again on Monday.

Apologies for the long communication - but too often in life we can sometimes slip into noticing the "deficits or wanting more" - when we simply need to stand back and marvel at the outstanding realization of what has happened before us.

Best -
Matt

My post to students this past Wednesday:

Good morning, xxxxxxxx! I have been so proud of how all of our L-H students have been "rocking" this new kind of learning! This has been an adventure for all of us - students, teachers, parents and PRINCIPAL! Before you start today's assignments, I wanted to remind you of a few points about your online learning:

1. Google Drive and Google Classroom, and the other school-related applications (such as Flipgrid) are to be used for your learning only. Your parents need to complete the permission form sent by your teachers in order for you to participate in video sessions - such as Google Meet.

2. Just so you know, we have the ability to monitor all student interactions - so please "know your job" using the technology and keep in mind that the Code of Conduct applies even in this format. You have been great so far - but in all fairness, I just need to remind you of that, just like I did when we went over the Code of Conduct in September. I have been jumping into classrooms throughout the day to see the "awesomeness" of your interactions!

3. All classrooms - whether in L-H or at home on your computer - need your best effort! So please make sure whatever you submit to your teacher reflects your best effort and mindset!

4. Please be sure to submit your assignments to your teachers daily. This is how they keep track of your learning and see how you are progressing.

5. WE LOVE YOUR POSITIVITY AND HOW MUCH EVERYONE IS HELPING THEIR CLASSMATES! Your teachers and I absolutely love all of the support you are showing for each other! This is what Lincoln-Hubbard and our "Pillars of Pride" is all about - taking care of each other, showing EMPATHY, and building each other up - instead of breaking each other down. I can't tell you enough how much this means to me as your principal, so THANK YOU!

I will be trying to get my own video greeting out from the Carlin home out to you next week...including some "special guests" I'd like you to meet! Stay tuned and finish strong this week!

Let's Go, Let's Grow L-H!
Mr. C