



March 20, 2020

Dear NHSP Families,

While I was in the process yesterday of composing today's email to families, we received the *Safer at Home* order from Governor Newsom and Mayor Garcetti. This now answers the question regarding the school's closure dates for the foreseeable future. The school campus will now be closed through Friday, April 17 (or until further notice).

We will have a limited window for staff and families to obtain any items they may need **this Monday from 9 am to 12 pm**. Please make arrangements for this timeframe only.

Learning Continuity Plan

The Learning Continuity Plan will continue during next week and the two weeks after spring break which is Mar. 30-Apr. 3.

Per my last email, the first few days of the Learning Continuity Plan for all grades was asynchronous (independent), and we are planning to roll out the synchronous plan (more face-to-face) starting next week and moving forward mainly for grades 4-8.

In addition to the daily assignments and links for K-3, we are looking into a platform that will allow for more interaction with classmates and teachers and will inform you by the end of today, Friday, what this will look like for next week.

After our school-wide staff meeting yesterday, teachers shared a great deal of feedback on what is working and what could be improved, and they will all be finalizing their lessons and assignments for next week and should be **posting these on the Family Portal by the end of today, Friday**.

In the Early Childhood program, there were some technical difficulties, but these have now been solved as we moved from LifeCubby to the Family Portal.

Amazing Faculty

Over the past seven days, I have been witness to the amazing dedication of our teachers, from Preschool through Eighth Grade, in finding ways to engage their students to continue the upward trajectory of learning. I have been so impressed by their agility to explore and research various resources and to adapt to this ever-changing learning environment.

What is true for everyone is a need to stay connected with our students during this disruption in their day-to-day schedule. I believe that this, above all, shall continue to nurture our children's emotional needs as they see and feel the love and care from the adults in their lives.

Community and Parent Connection

During this time of closure, many of you are staying in touch through various whatsapp groups, Facebook, etc. These forums can be a wonderful way for parents to stay connected. However, we are also hearing that there may be some confusion about the assignments and learning plan. We strongly advise families to utilize the Family Portal to get all the information they need for their child's work and schedules and for any school news. If you need further clarification, please reach out directly to the Lower School and Middle School Directors, Ms. Seedat and Ms. Ansari, respectively, with ANY questions and/or to provide feedback.

fseedat@newhorizonschool.org and nansari@newhorizonschool.org

In the coming days, we will be exploring ways for us to stay more connected as a community.

We have asked Mr. Siler to prepare a khutba to share with families today, so please look for another email with the link to this sermon for families to enjoy today.

Commitment to Staff and Continuity

During the uncertainty of the school closure, the school remains committed to its teachers and staff to keep the integrity of our school operation. All teachers and staff are working diligently from home to support all of our students' learning and our school needs during this temporary closure. We will continue to pay the teachers and staff to advance student and school needs through this current format and are, by no means, "closed" as an operation.

While this is a challenging situation that evolves on a day-to-day, hour-by-hour basis, we are blessed to be together as a community to find the best ways to continue serving the needs of our students with our unique and valuable program and resources. We again ask for your patience and cooperation as we move forward together on this journey.

Please look for more information in emails from the LS and MS Directors later today and from me again on Monday.

In peace,

Amira Al-Sarraf

Head of School