



April 3, 2020

Dear New Horizon Pasadena Families and Staff,

I hope this email finds you all safe and healthy. As we near the end of spring break, I also hope you have had some time to make new and novel memories with your families even with the backdrop of these unprecedented times.

As you know, Governor Newsom made an announcement on Wednesday, April 1 stating that public schools will continue to educate students but not on school sites through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

In our spirit of optimism, we have been holding out hope that the coronavirus crisis might improve to a point that we could return to school by early to mid-May. Based on the most recent data and projections by health officials, however, the peak of this pandemic is still yet to come, making continued social distancing imperative.

After further discussions with the school leadership team, the Board of Trustees, and PASH (Pasadena Area School Heads), we have come to the decision that it appears highly unlikely that we will return to campus before the end of the school year. Our aim is to reunite as a community on campus once it is safe for our students and teachers to do so. Should anything change in this regard, we would inform families at that time.

Learning Continuity Plan

We remain focused on our learning continuity plan that consists of online synchronous learning and asynchronous independent learning. As stated in my video message last week, we will be rolling out additional features in our plan upon returning from spring break. This includes giving students an opportunity to learn in the live online platform (Zoom) with all of their core subject teachers and incorporating more live and recorded sessions with some of their specialist teachers such as P.E. and Art as well as electives for 7th and 8th grade.

Social and Emotional Well-being of Students, Parents, and Teachers

It is so important at this time to support our students' social and emotional well-being, especially during this prolonged stay-at-home situation. We have built in time for students to share and connect outside of academic spaces through Morning Meeting for PS-4 and Advisory for 5-8. Some groups meet daily for these sessions, and some will be meeting once a week. Additionally, we are planning coffee sessions for parents and with our consulting psychologist as we look at how to support one another during this time.

Curriculum, Grading and Assessment

In the coming days and weeks, we will provide families with information regarding curriculum and assessment moving into the fourth quarter including outlining key standards for completion through the end of the year and different types of assessment tools to be used for authentic evaluation of students.

Graduation & Promotion Ceremonies

Many of our students, especially our eighth graders, have been looking forward to their celebrations through graduation and promotion ceremonies. We are planning for ways to celebrate these milestones at a later date when it is safe to reunite on campus, possibly in June, July or August.

Campus Closure

The school facility is closed at this time with occasional pre-planned hours as needed. If you would like to reach any of the administration or staff, please use email addresses.

Although we cannot control the magnitude of this national and world crisis, we can do our best to control how we handle this test. First and foremost, for our children, we must support their emotional needs as they work through a very difficult time. While the circumstances for our school are quite unprecedented, with creativity, collaboration, and compassion, we can meet the challenge and work together as a community. We are committed to the school's mission and vision of academic excellence and firm grounding in moral and ethical values with an emphasis on the American Muslim identity and a commitment to the betterment of family, community, and humanity. These principles have guided our decisions over the years and will continue to light our path forward with the grace and mercy of Our Creator.

We are in this together, and we are here to support our school community in the best way we can. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Amira Al-Sarraf
Head of School