



Hotchkiss K-8 School

Weekly News Update

“Opening doors for endless possibilities.”

April 24, 2020

Principal’s Message



I had mixed feelings this week when Governor Polis cancelled in-person education for K-12 the rest of the school year. Part of me was glad that the unknown had been answered and we knew how to plan for the remainder of the school year. However, the better part of me was saddened that we would not come back into a regular session. I would not see this group of kids and their teachers together in the same building nor would we have the fun end of year events. I will dearly miss the 8th graders that will be advancing to the high school next year. More to come on that subject.

Here is some clarification of when school actually ends. There will be no new assignments after Friday, May 15th. For any student who has completed their work and turned it **ALL** in, they will be finished on May 15th with the academic part of this school year. For those that still have incomplete work you will have until Wednesday, May 27th to turn it in. Final grades will be finalized by Friday, May 29th. This leaves only three weeks of Distance Learning. Our staff has been discussing ideas about how to honor the 8th graders without the traditional continuation ceremony. We will have more information forthcoming. We will also have information in the future about students gathering their belongings in desks and lockers, returning library books and classroom books and returning their Chromebooks. Last but not least, thank you for all of the feedback we received on the surveys and questionnaires about Distance Learning. We appreciate your support throughout this time. I felt the feedback was heartfelt, honest, helpful and respectful. We know this has been a trying time for our parents and families. It is a blessing to live and work here in Hotchkiss!

Farm to School Program

One of the most successful and positive things during our absence from school is our Farm to School Program. Angela Flores heads this program district wide. She has some help from AmeriCorp youth and her family has also been very active. Garden beds have been refurbished outside by the preschool playground, our Lewis and Clark Garden is being replanted, and the Seed Kit Project has been wildly successful. The first 100 packets were sold out in 12 hours and there are another 100 packets being sold this week. It has been unfortunate that Mrs. Flores has not been able to engage our students and families with the Stay at Home Order in place. However, when we get back to some normalcy the program is prepared to include our students. Thank you to Mrs. Flores and the Flores family.

Parent Support Group

A Kidz Clinic is launching a new online support group to help parents navigate student Stay at Home learning and emotional wellness! Please join us during our new Parenting Support Groups offered in the evenings on Tuesdays and at noon on Wednesdays. Our group facilitators are mental health professionals in Delta County School District and A Kidz Clinic.

Click the link below to register and receive the link for the online meeting. Together, we will get through #COVID! REGISTER HERE: <https://docs.google.com/.../15TuNiMXYbdZMxkTWu83VDBWk9j.../edit...>

School Hours

The school will be open daily on a restricted basis on Mondays from 8:00 am-4:00 pm and Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Students will be able to pick up and drop off learning packets in the Big Gym on Mondays. On Tuesday-Friday we will have staff in the office to answer phones and conduct school business. If you need assistance, please go to the front window and waive or knock and someone will be out to help you. We are not allowing any of the public in the building until further notice. Thank you for understanding.

Grab and Go Meals

Our cafeteria is still handing out Grab and Go meals Monday-Friday from 11:00-1:00 pm outside of the Big Gym.

Calendar

April 27-May 15 New material for Distance Learning

Please remember our primary form of communication is our weekly Friday Newsletter through email, we are constantly putting up new information on our website under the community tab, please check it regularly. You may also access the newsletter through our website: hk8.deltaschools.com and please like us on Facebook, at [facebook.com/HotchkissK8](https://www.facebook.com/HotchkissK8). You are always welcome to call the school office (872-3325) for questions and information. Hard copies are available by request.