

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020 EMAIL TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Good evening students and parents,

I would like to take a moment to check in with all of you after our first official day with distance learning.

- Students, I hope many of you were able to access postings from your classes. If you were not able to, please do not stress or worry. Work on the assignments when you can. I want to be clear about my message, though - work on and submit assignments when you have time. Please do not procrastinate. We have received guidance from the Diocese of Lafayette to continue providing instruction, assignments and assessments, and students are expected to complete the required coursework. I do know that some of you have challenges with accessing the assignments - sharing a device with others in your home, internet connectivity, tending to other responsibilities at home, watching siblings, etc. For those of you who fall into this category, please complete and submit the assignments when you can, even if this is after the due date/time. If you are having trouble meeting the due dates/times on a regular basis, please let your teacher, me and/or guidance counselor know.
- Before the closure, nearly all of the students completed the technology survey. Guidance reached out to any student who indicated limited or no daily access to reliable internet. If your status changes (your access to internet decreases and hampers your ability to work on assignments), please let your teacher, me or your guidance counselor know. We will try to assist you in any way we can.
- Please see the Student Tech Info pdf sent via email by Mrs. Leslie Bergeron earlier today.
- Members of the TCHS administration will be joining the Google Classroom pages to help monitor student work and to help address any issues that may arise.
- Some of you have asked about teachers using Zoom or other similar means of presenting material via live video or video conferencing.
 - While we know that Zoom and similar platforms offer simple, free live video, we do not feel it is the most equitable option for students and teachers at this time. Many of our students will be limited in their access to computers/internet and cannot join a lecture at a set time. And while there may be an option to record these live sessions for later viewing, many of our teachers are juggling responsibilities at home and cannot limit interruptions during the daytime hours. Recorded videos allow them to work and present with minimal disruptions.
 - We are working on an option that may allow for teachers to have “office hours” where students can ask questions in a live format, but before we do that, we want to make sure the features of the program do not introduce distractions to our students. For now, please continue communicating via email and Google Classroom.

- We know you are receiving many emails each day. To keep updates and information easily accessible, we have a section on the TCHS website where all communication sent during the closure will be posted. You can find this in the News column on the homepage (www.tchs.net).

Our goal remains to provide instruction to the students. Please continue to be patient with us and the faculty as we identify and work to address issues. This is new for all of us and may be a work in progress for a few days.

We are here for you. No question or problem is too small. Please reach out if you need.

Lauren Jeffrey