April 3, 2020

Dear Highlanders,

Today, I had the great pleasure of joining each school division during their distance learning operations and, through that, connected online with many of our students and families. It was exciting for me to visit Lower School’s virtual “Bunny Hop,” Middle School’s “Virtual Car Line,” and to coordinate with Mr. Daly on future Upper School activities. This takes on special significance for our Senior Class, who are demonstrating admirable grit and grace during unprecedented disruption to their final semester on campus. Lake Highland is a caring, connected community, and I proudly witnessed it again today.

As I announced earlier this week, we have extended our campus closure through Friday, May 1, in accordance with state and federal guidelines. When we return from Spring Break on Monday, April 13, we will resume the LHP Learning Continuity Plan and continue distance learning through Friday, May 1. Whereas we remain hopeful that we will be able to return to campus in May, we are planning for the possibility of completing the school year via the Learning Continuity Plan. We will certainly keep you informed as the pandemic and associated guidelines unfold in the coming weeks.

I continue to be amazed at how our students, parents, faculty and staff members have met the challenges of this unprecedented moment in history. To be sure, it has not been easy, but Highlanders have risen to the occasion with resilience, determination, and predictable excellence. I remain remarkably impressed with the distance learning that is taking place. I am also exceedingly grateful for our dedicated faculty who are teaching and connecting with our students through SeeSaw, Canvas, Google Classroom, Zoom, and countless emails. Finally, our students and their parents are doing a magnificent job, too, as we all learn and navigate this new learning modality.

While we are proud of what we have accomplished, we are always striving to improve. In that light, the team has been working feverishly to expand actual daily “instruction” time vs. “activity” time once we resume operations following spring break. We hope that you will take a moment to candidly share your family’s distance learning experience through this short survey
(https://forms.gle/SQoeVQkHyCgdh1XJ7). With your input, we can make our efforts even better!

Lake Highland’s Spring Break officially begins today! I wish you and your families a healthy, joyful, and restful week together during this time that is a holy season for many Highlanders. None of us envisioned our Spring Break would be in the middle of a world-wide pandemic, but let us truly enjoy it (with family if possible), and find time for some relaxation and stress-free activities, time for intentional refreshment of our body and soul, and time for grateful reflection on our many blessings.

Gina and I send our very best wishes to all of you - our students, our faculty and staff members, our parents and family members, and our many friends of the school.

God bless, Happy Easter, Happy Passover, and warmest regards,

Alfred G. Harms, Jr.
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