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Dear Parents and Students:

Foremost, I hope this message finds you and all your family in good health.

The latest Executive Order issued by the Governor extended the closure of all High School District 211 schools through at least the end of April to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). While our social distance reminds us of the loss of our connections in our classrooms, in our hallways and on our fields, this week's start of our remote learning program has already injected new levels of energy and encouragement throughout the District. Over 90% of our students logged-in each of the first two days of remote learning, and we want everyone to know that all of us in District 211 are committed to being here for you throughout the coming weeks. This week serves as a remarkable demonstration of the principle that we are all better when we work together.

Our priorities throughout the period of school closure will remain constant:

- 1.) providing reliable free nutrition assistance to any student in need;
- 2.) maintaining critical connections of support among our students, families and staff members through regular communications and a responsive presence; and
- 3.) continuing to advance student learning.

General Reminders About E-Learning

Teachers will post the day's assignments by 9:00 a.m. on each e-learning day. Students can expect to spend about 30-40 minutes to complete the assignment for each class, and they have up to five days to turn in their assignments. Teachers are available to support students during a designated three-hour window during regular school hours. Student attendance in each day's e-learning activities is required, and students are responsible for recording their attendance using Infinite Campus. Instructions for recording attendance are available [here](#). Assistance for students with technical difficulties is available through their school's Technology Department HelpDesk with specific contact information listed on the District's [e-learning webpage](#).

School counselors, social workers, and psychologists are available by phone or email for students and parents during e-learning days. Our student services staff members are ready to provide social and emotional support or to assist students with academic needs and post-high school planning.

State Testing Cancellation and Advanced Placement Testing Update

Per an Executive Order, the Governor suspended all State-required student assessments for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The Order eliminates the assessments planned for April, including the **SAT** (juniors), **PSAT 10** (sophomores) and **PSAT 9** (freshmen). Because juniors typically use the SAT to obtain a college entrance score, the State of Illinois is exploring opportunities for current juniors to take a free SAT exam in the fall of 2020. We will provide more information about alternative options for taking the SAT as we receive it.

Additionally, students anticipating taking the United States constitution test and Illinois constitution test as part of United States History class will not complete those assessments this school year.

The administration of **Advanced Placement (AP)** exams, which are coordinated by the College Board, will be modified this year due to the impact of the extended school closures across the country. Students will take all AP exams online this spring. Each exam will be 45 minutes in length and will consist entirely of free response items. The exams will be limited to cover only the content and skills that students would have learned as of early March. The College Board has committed to releasing a full set of details about AP exams by April 3, 2020 on its [website](#). Our faculty members closely follow guidance from the College Board to understand updates regarding this year's AP exams so that we can communicate additional details to students and parents as the information becomes available.

Harper Promise Update

District 211 has been in close communication with Harper College regarding student eligibility requirements for the **Harper Promise Scholarship**. To provide important assurance, Harper College recognizes the current need for flexibility surrounding the eligibility criteria. Following a discussion involving the president of Harper College and superintendents from the three local high school districts, our communication to you next week will provide the particular details regarding this year's eligibility for the Harper Promise scholarship.

Summer School 2020 Registration Delayed

We mailed the Summer School 2020 catalogs to families in mid-March. Though students typically register in April for summer classes, we must postpone registration for 2020 summer school classes until further notice. When we receive further guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Governor, we will provide information about summer school courses and our many athletic and activity camps.

District 211 Meal Bags Distribution

Each Thursday, we will provide an individual bag of food to families in need for each student enrolled in District 211 or in elementary school. Meal bags will again be available for no-contact, drive-thru pick-up tomorrow, Thursday, April 2, at Palatine High School and the G.A. McElroy Administration Center from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., and also at Hoffman Estates High School from 9:00 a.m. until noon. More information on meal bag distribution is available [here](#).

Upcoming Communications

With District 211 e-learning beginning this week, students and parents may likely have questions about **student grades**. One guiding principle serves as the foundation for our approach to grading: no adverse impact will result for students as a result of these extraordinary circumstances. We will provide greater information and details about grading in an upcoming communication.

We are mindful of important **year-end ceremonies and celebrations**. We will communicate with you in the upcoming weeks as we receive further guidance about the extent of our social restrictions.

We regularly receive guidance surrounding school closures from the Illinois State Board of Education, and we will continue to send you weekly messages with confirmed updates. Please continue to check the District 211 and school websites for additional information regarding the impact of the Coronavirus in District 211, as well as additional information about [e-learning](#). Information about the Coronavirus is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [website](#) as well as the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) [website](#).

Daniel E. Cates
Superintendent

You received this electronic communication because you provided your email address to High School District 211. Changes or updates to your email address can be made using [Infinite Campus](#). If you have questions regarding any of the information contained within this email, please call the high school for assistance with your concern.

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