

Monday, March 23, 2020

Hello City High Students and Families:

I trust that this message finds you and your family doing well and as best as can be expected amid the circumstances. I am reaching out to notify you that **City High is going to remain closed until the start of the third trimester on April 27th**. While Governor Wolf's state mandated two-week closure hasn't been extended yet, we believe it's prudent to amend our original plans of returning in person before the trimester ends. As a result, we are going to transition to an exclusive online delivery approach through our existing Google Classroom platform. We are well positioned to help our students make this temporary transition due to your regular use and familiarity with Google Classroom.

Here are our expectations of how we will move forward with our last week of the trimester, March 30th through April 3rd, and how we are planning to support you:



201 Stanwix Street

Suite 100

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

(412) 690-2489

Fax: (412) 690-2316

[www.cityhigh.org](http://www.cityhigh.org)

- **Today March 23rd**, we are planning for the following:
  - We are designating TODAY MARCH 23, 2020 for students who do not have their laptops or chargers to come pick them up from school. We've established pick-up windows for students to gather their items as follows:
    - **4:00 p.m. to 7:30pm**: All grades.
  - We will share an Assignments document for each grade level that includes each course by student team. Each of your teacher teams will be preparing approximately **3-5 core assignments per class that will be due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday April 3rd**.
- **Office Hours**: Your teachers will offer designated office hours and also schedule appointments (as necessary). Office hours and appointments can occur via video conferencing (through Google Meet/Hangout). Appointments can also occur via phone.
- **Advisory**: Your Advisor will send an email to check in with you at the beginning of next week to see how you're doing.
- **Students with Disabilities/Exceptionalities**: Our Learning Support teams are meeting virtually to plan for relevant accommodations and modifications for individual students.
- **Wellness**: Ms. Ickes and Ms. Zuniga will be available via email. Any student or parent seeking to reach them can email them at [zuniga@cityhigh.org](mailto:zuniga@cityhigh.org) or [ickes@cityhigh.org](mailto:ickes@cityhigh.org). They will do their best to respond in a timely manner during regular school hours. If immediate assistance is required for a behavioral health emergency, RESOLVE should be contacted at 1-888-796-8226. For those of you who are connected with Pressley Ridge, they will be reaching out to students and families directly.
- **Student Internet Accessibility**: You should have received an online survey from Mr. Crist about your Internet and device accessibility needs. It was emailed to students this past Friday. In the meantime, he has identified the Comcast Internet Essentials program as the most accessible for families who need low-cost, in-home internet access: <https://www.xfinity.com/prepare#internet-essentials>. The first two months are free and the price is \$9.95 per month thereafter. It takes about 5-7 days to receive the equipment. Please alert Mr. Crist about your accessibility needs. He can be reached at [crist@cityhigh.org](mailto:crist@cityhigh.org) or at 724-393-0206 via call/text.

Below are additional considerations we want to share with you:

- **Senior Grad Project and Independent Research Project (IRP)**: Please review the Assignments document for amended expectations for your projects. Your Grad Project and IRP Project teachers will also be available to answer questions.
- **Internship**: As noted in my prior email, Ms. Drummond and Ms. Kretschman will be in touch about expectations and next steps to wrap up students' experiences. Remaining internship set-up meetings that were scheduled at the end of this trimester for juniors are being re-scheduled.
- **Attendance**: As it relates to attendance and our DAT policy, attendance will be counted as of our last full day in the building this trimester, which was March 12th.

I'm going to miss seeing you and my school colleagues in person, but I'm confident that this next step is the most prudent action to assure everyone's safety. Please continue to take care of yourselves and your loved ones. We will continue to provide you updates as they emerge.

Best,  
Dr. Allen

**Dara Ware Allen, Ph.D.**  
CEO and Principal  
City Charter High School  
201 Stanwix Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
office: 412-690-2489 x101  
cell:412-719-9410  
[www.cityhigh.org](http://www.cityhigh.org)

High School at *Life-speed*