

Monday, April 13, 2020

Dear City High Students and Families:

Congratulations on making it through the second trimester after weathering unprecedented circumstances created by COVID-19. While we are quarantined within our homes, we hope that you have begun to enjoy the trimester 2 break.

As we look ahead to the start of trimester 3, we have made some decisions about how we will begin the next trimester in light of Governor Wolf's recent announcement that mandated school closures are being extended **through the end of the school year** to help minimize the spread of COVID-19 and its impact on our respective communities. **City High's online delivery approach will be extended through the month of May.** However, it will look differently than how we finished trimester 2:



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- The approach will be inclusive of daily mini-lessons uploaded by our teachers Monday through Thursday; a daily check-in with our teacher advisors; and consistent daily office hours by our teachers.
- Daily assignments will be due Monday through Thursday.
- Attendance through daily log-in's is expected.

We care deeply about our City High student body as well as our faculty and staff that comprise our school community so we want to let you know that we wrestled with devising a plan that was both student-centered and respectful of our faculty and staff. Our goal was to balance the needs of students, both academic and wellness, so that students have a predictable schedule, access to instruction, and connection to a caring adult via their advisor and teacher office hours while minimizing excessive screen time. We also considered the needs of our faculty, who will be caring for our students and fulfilling their teaching responsibilities while simultaneously caring for their own children and loved ones as they work from home.

Our hope is that we will be able to resume school in-person in June when other schools are finished for the year. In the interim, **the start day of next trimester is being amended to begin on Monday, May 4th.** City High faculty and staff will virtually report to school during the week of April 27th. We hope that this amended schedule will provide our teachers the necessary time to prepare for our new transition and to provide us additional time to address any lingering Internet connectivity issues and laptop repairs for students. **A more detailed plan will be sent to you the week of April 27th.** **We will also update you by mid-May about any additional adjustments to the remainder of our trimester.**

In preparation for trimester 3, we want to make another appeal to you to alert us of any connectivity issues you're experiencing. Some of you have already been in touch with Mr. Crist, our Technology Director, which has been very helpful in troubleshooting solutions. Please contact Mr. Crist at crist@cityhigh.org or 724-393-0206 if you're experiencing such issues. We have been developing resources to help address a range of connectivity issues. Please also contact Mr. Crist if you need laptop repairs or to replace a charger.

Lastly, I want to share a few closing thoughts as you continue your break and gear up for trimester 3:

- Try to enjoy your break.
- As I noted in an earlier communication, do something that makes you smile. Whether it's listening to your favorite song/artist, reading, exercising, watching a favorite show/movie, and/or doing a kind deed for someone else, try to do something each day that gives you a positive boost.
- Begin thinking of how you will organize yourself to be successful in light of the change in our educational delivery. Resolve yourself to put your best foot forward and prepare to be resilient.
- Seniors- don't forget to continue to apply for scholarships! And, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if you haven't already done so.
- Here's a quote that I hope lifts your spirits: "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Again, we really miss you and look forward to when we can be reunited in person. I often tell people who ask how I'm doing or how City High is doing, that I am beyond fortunate to serve the interests of our amazing students and their families and also to work alongside my devoted colleagues at City High.

Continue to do all you can to stay safe and healthy!

All my best,
Dr. Allen

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