

March 25th, 2020

Dear Waltrip Parents and Community,

I hope this communication finds you safe and healthy. We are concerned about all our students and their families during this time. Teachers have been working this week preparing lessons and establishing communication lines with students. Parents may email teachers with questions through email, and teacher emails can be found both on the school website and in Gradespeed.

The Waltrip Counseling Team will be available for students. There will be a "guidance" class added to The Hub soon for students to reach out to counselors as needed. Email is also available,

If students have a technology need at this time such as a broken laptop or a missing laptop charger, please email Campus Technician Craig Gerhard at cgerhar1@houstonisd.org and he will work with you. Mr. Gerhard has arranged for curbside technical assistance on Thursday, March 26th between 10 am and 1 pm at the Waltrip campus, but you must first schedule an appointment with him before arriving.

Here are some general guidelines and expectations for teachers, students, and parents:

Teachers

Teachers will be available for communication Monday through Friday during regular school hours. Email will be checked a minimum of 3 times per day between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. Teachers will communicate with students and parents through platforms such as email, The Hub, and Microsoft Teams. Lessons and learning activities will be posted in The Hub and, starting next week, HISD @ H.O.M.E. Microsoft Teams is a good way for teachers to have face-to-face conversations with students. Also, video lessons will be implemented as another way to keep the teachers and students in visual contact.

Parents

Parents are asked to assist students by checking to see that students have completed their work, and sometimes with retrieval of assignments and videos from the students' laptops as needed. Most students will be able to complete their work independently. Parents and students are encouraged to communicate with teachers for assistance or if they have questions.

Students

Students are expected to complete their tasks and assignments by the assigned due date. They are also expected to seek assistance when needed.

Please know that we understand there are many obstacles at this time, but it is our full intent to provide the highest quality education possible under these circumstances. We are prepared to continue remote learning as long as necessary, but we also hope to return to the campus as soon as possible. We intend to support students and families the best we can, with sensitivity towards students' social and emotional needs. Waltrip High School and HISD will continue to monitor recommendations from the local and federal health authorities and will updates will be available both at the HISD and Waltrip websites.

Thank you and stay safe.

Michael Niggli

Principal, Waltrip High School