March 24, 2020

# An Update from Principal Stewart

Westside Families,

As we are all faced with uncertainty during the COVID 19 outbreak, I would like to share important details of how we will proceed with instruction in a home-learning environment. The needs and concerns of our community have occupied our hearts and minds throughout Spring Break and now we

are ready to get back to work. First, I would like to clarify timelines for home-based instruction. The conversion from face-to-face to online learning requires in depth planning and training for our staff. We are finalizing a daily structure. Our goal is to establish a new routine daily structure that allows for flexibility and a focus on family needs and wellness.

Week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>: (Self-directed) Students can log into HISD@H.O.M.E. and explore free digital resources on their own to be used in the upcoming days. Activities during this week are self-directed by students and families. While students are becoming more familiar with these resources, teachers will be reaching out to students, modifying their curriculum-based lessons and participating in training and collaboration for the new format of student instruction.

Week of March 31<sup>st</sup>: Classroom teacher-directed curriculum-based lessons will go live beginning March 31<sup>st</sup>. Our students will utilize resources they are already familiar with to access academic materials and information for their classes. At Westside, teachers use either the HUB or Google Classroom as a home base. In addition, teachers will have capability to interact in a live online format with students.

Expect a Call from an Unknown Number! March 24th-26<sup>th</sup>: Every Westside student will be contacted individually by their 2nd period teacher. We feel it's important to check in with every student in a personal way to ensure they are safe and have access to their HISDissued laptop. The greatest challenge is having the correct phone number and email on file. Please don't reject the call! We will work diligently to make sure students have everything they need to continue their academics. Note: If you or your child has not been contacted by March 26<sup>th</sup>, please send updated phone and email information to your child's dean or to Ms. Lyon at dlyon@houstonisd.org.

As we all adapt and plan for a successful continuation of the school year, we greatly appreciate your patience and cooperation. You can be assured we share your goal of doing what is best for students during these uncertain circumstances.

Principal Peggi Stewart

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# How to Keep Up with the Flow of Information

During these challenging times of learning at home, it is important to stay connected. Please be proactive in keeping up to date on the information you need. Things change rapidly so you will need to be vigilant.

Are you in the loop? The first priority related to school is to ensure you are receiving notices from Houston Independent School District and Westside High School. If you need to add to or edit your contact email address(es) or phone number (s), please send an email to our school secretary, Disa Lyon, at dlyon@houstonisd.org. Include your student's name and ID number.

Seek out reliable information to stay on top of the latest updates and details. Now is a great time to follow *trusted* social media resources and sign-up for notifications from official entities. Do not rely on word of mouth nor internet rumors.



#### **Houston Independent School District**

Main Website: www.houstonisd.org

HISD/Covid-19 Alerts: www.houstonisd.org/HealthAlerts

Twitter: @HoustonISD Instagram: houstontxisd

FaceBook: Houston Independent School District

#### **Westside High School**

Main Website: www.westsidewolves.org

Twitter: @westsidehigh

Instagram: gowestsidewolves
Facebook: Westside High School

#### **City of Houston**

Main website: www.houstontx.gov

Covid-19 Updates: https://houstonemergency.org/covid19

Twitter: @HoustonTX

#### **Harris County**

Main Website: www.harriscountytx.gov

Covid-19: https://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/

Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus

Twitter: @ReadyHarris

### **HISD Launches Home-Based Education**



The Houston Independent School District is launching HISD @ H.O.M.E. (Home-based Online Mobile Education), a distance learning plan to ensure students' academic and non-academic needs are met as the district remains closed due to COVID-19 precautions. For additional general information, please go to:

HoustonISD.org/HOME

#### **Getting Started Survey**

As HISD begins the remote learning program, we want to connect with all our families and be sure you have the tools needed for remote learning. The purpose of this survey is to collect information that will make families remote learning experience optimal. It is available in multiple languages at the same link.

Please take this HISD Survey https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9VPFZ5Q

# Senior Meeting on Live Stream



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## Thank You, Dedicated Staff Members

A big round of socially-distanced applause for our Wolf staff members who assisted students needing to retrieve essential belongings left on campus.

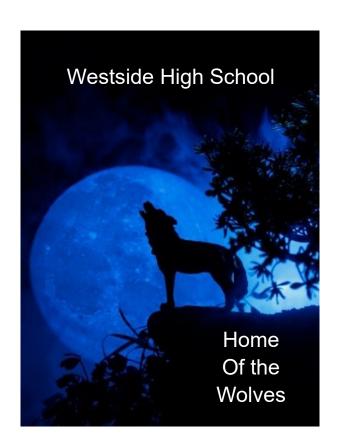
Associate Principal Tyrone Davis was especially grateful for the willingness of these staff members to step up on short notice. He said, "We could not have served our kiddos without their support today!"

Dean Barry Mr. Gonzalez
Mrs. Miller Mr. Brunson
Coach Sikkema Mr. Wesley Smith
Coach Brown Mr. Salisbury

Coach Barrow Ms. Schrynemeeckers

Coach Mason Ms. Mims Mr. Thompson

Thanks for demonstrating what it means to have the *Heart of a Wolf*!



# Attention Juniors! School Day SAT Postponed

HISD has announced that the administration of the SAT School Day test planned for April 28, 2020 is rescheduled for October 14, 2020. Our class of current juniors will sit for the test in October when they are seniors.

It is important to note, juniors are advised to sign up for the June or August 2020 SAT if they wish to meet early action/early decision college application deadlines for Fall of 2021 admissions.

# Need Updates? Covid-19 Changes AP, SAT and ACT

#### ACT

April 4 ACT is rescheduled to June 13th:

http://www.act.org/

#### ΑP

AP Updates for schools impacted by Coronavirus:

https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update

#### SAT

For information regarding March and May SAT cancelations:

https://pages.collegeboard.org/natural-disasters

# Resources You May Need



**Comcast Announces** 

Comprehensive
COVID-19 Response
to
Help Keep Americans
Connected to the Internet

Free Wifi from Comcast: https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19

# From Our Westside Counselor:

Social Emotional Guide for Parents and Teachers

Resources for Parents, Educators & School Communities Related to COVID-19

https://insidesel.com/2020/03/12/covid-19/





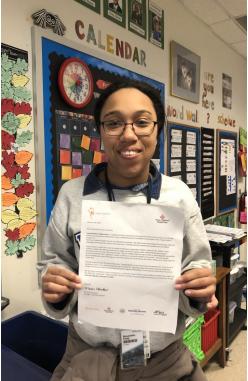
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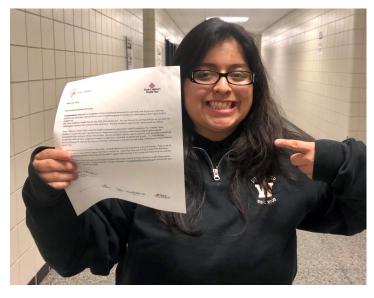
## New Texas Children's & Dow Chemical Interns

Now for some non-Coronavirus news! Congratulations to our five Wolves who have received internship offers for next year. Alexaundria Fretty, Melanie Monreal, and Anthuny Stallings will participate in internships at Texas Children's Health Plan. Ramy El Shafy and Dylan Brown will intern at Dow Chemical.

These Westside students participated in working-interviews for coveted spots in the HISD/Project Search transition program. Project Search is a 1 year, school-to-work program where interns gain real-world work experience and independent living skills while training at businesses in the community. Most of the students are in CBVI with Mrs. Romo and









# Juniors Interviewed for Genesys Works

Also on a note of the light at the end of the Covid -19 tunnel...Genesys Works was on campus before Spring Break interviewing juniors for 2020-2021 business practicums. Their mission is to provide pathways career success meaningful work experience for high schoolers. If students are selected, they will train for 8-weeks with the this summer in program preparation for placement with their business partners next school-year.



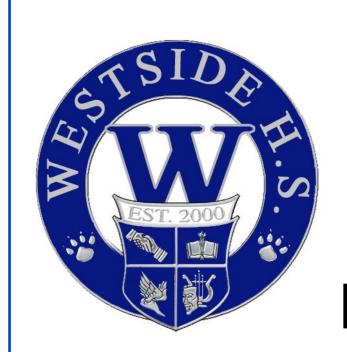


# Lunch & Learn on King Arthur Excavation

By Ms. Jennalee Zeigler

Mr. Win Scutt, an archeologist from England, came to visit Westside High school at the beginning of March to speak about an archeological excavation taking place in England right now. The site is believed to be where King Arthur was born, if he existed at all. Mr. Scott spoke to the AP World History students about the legend verses reality. He also shared details about the dig and the knowledge they have gained about Medieval life as a result of the dig. A big thank you to *Archeology* Now for partnering with the Learning Commons here at Westside and bringing special speakers in to speak to our students.





# Celebrating 20 Years Of Excellence Est. 2000

# **Quick Links**

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barbara.nassab@houstonisd.org

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GradeSpeed:

https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/42143

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School Pay:

https://www.schoolpay.com/

School Web Address:

https://www.houstonisd.org/westsidehs

**HISD Web Address:** 

https://www.houstonisd.org