March 27, 2020

Dear Travis Families,

I hope this finds you safe and well.

Our teachers have been hard at work this week, taking online training, researching learning platforms, and collaborating and planning through virtual meetings as teams and with administration in support of leading home learning for our students.

In collaboration with our teachers, we have created a school-based, online learning platform called the ‘Travis Learning Center,’ or the TLC for short (we educators can’t help ourselves when it comes to using acronyms!). The TLC can be found here [https://bit.ly/TravisLearningCenter](https://bit.ly/TravisLearningCenter) and features:

- Travis teacher-recommended and frequently used learning resources
- Individual pages for our Core Enrichment teachers (PE, Creative Movement, Music, Art, and Library/Technology) to share and promote their own learning activities, resources, and offerings
- Social emotional learning activities and tips for parents compiled by our school counselor, Leslie Smith (Please see a note from Ms. Smith below.)

Through the TLC, we hope to capture the spirit and essence of our unique school community while connecting our students to their school family and familiar whole child learning activities and supports. The site will be updated and expanded regularly and will be referenced as part of teachers’ weekly learning activities.

Each week, your child(ren)’s teacher(s) will communicate their class assignments/activities by content area, which will include:

- HISD @ H.O.M.E. ([https://www.houstonisd.org/HOME](https://www.houstonisd.org/HOME)) lessons and learning activities (I hope you’ve had an opportunity this week to explore this platform; it will continue to be enhanced and lessons are being added beginning next week.)
- Activities or assigned time on digital resources (such as Education Galaxy, Greg Tang Math, STEMscopes, etc.)
- Opportunities for students to share learning connections and get teacher feedback through interactive platforms such as Google Classroom
- Recorded or live lessons (Please have patience initially as this will develop and be enhanced as teachers and students familiarize themselves with virtual platforms)

With this **Monday being a district holiday** in recognition of **Chávez/Huerta Day**, teachers will communicate and begin next week’s learning on Tuesday, March 31. They will be creative and imaginative and will work hard to serve our students. As virtual home learning is an entirely new undertaking for us, I ask for your continued patience and flexibility as we figure out strategies and methods for best meeting student needs. There will be things we need to tweak and correct as we learn through trial and error and navigate our way through this. We will adjust as needed.

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It’s important to keep in mind that all of us – our students and families and our teachers and staff – face differing circumstances right now in our homes and lives as we face unprecedented challenges and uncertainties. Please take on at-home learning at the pace and schedule that works best for your family. I have told our teachers that giving our students familiarity, love, and connection are top priorities heading into these next few weeks.

On this thought, please see a letter below from Ms. Smith for information on supporting children’s social emotional needs. And special thanks to the Travis PTA for sharing support resources and ideas for strengthening community and connection in this morning’s Tiger Beat Special Edition. That message can be found HERE.

Information on the re-imagined Travis Spring Social and Auction has been shared in a separate email sent on behalf of the Travis Foundation.

I wish you well. Have a safe weekend.

Sincerely,
Tom Day, Principal

A MESSAGE FROM LESLIE SMITH, SCHOOL COUNSELOR:

Travis Family,

I hope this finds all of you and your families safe and healthy. Times of uncertainty and disruption to our normal routines can be causes of stress and anxiety for us and our child(ren).

I want you to know that I am here for any students and families who might be struggling in any way. Please email me (lsmith37@houstonisd.org) if you or your child needs support and we will schedule a time to speak virtually or over the phone.

I will periodically post articles and resources for students, parents, and families on the ‘Travis Learning Center’ (TLC). I will also share lessons and activities to do with your child(ren) that develop social and emotional competencies and teach character traits. You will also find resources for mindfulness, dealing with worry and anxiety, how to talk to your child(ren) about our current lives, and many more.

Please reach out to me if I can be of assistance. I am here to serve you.

Wishing you well,

Leslie Smith, M.Ed., NCC, LPC
School Counselor